MARVEL EPIC COLLECTION

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VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR

VOLUME 2

1992-1993

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361-363 & #374, SPIDER-MAN: THE TRIAL OF VENOM, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #95-96, GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5-6, VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #1-6 AND MATERIAL FROM MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #117-122 & AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #373 AND #375

VENOM

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EXCERPTS FROM
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #359-360, FEBRUARY-MARCH 1992

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361, APRIL 1992
"SAVAGE GENESIS!"

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #362, MAY 1992
"SAVAGE ALLIANCE!"

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #363, JUNE 1992
"SAVAGE GRACE!"

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL EDITION, DECEMBER 1992
"THE TRIAL OF VENOM"

EXCERPT FROM
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #94, NOVEMBER 1992

EXCERPT FROM
GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #4, NOVEMBER 1992

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #95, DECEMBER 1992
"SPIRITS OF VENOM, PART 1 OF 4: STORM SHADOWS"

GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5, DECEMBER 1992
"CHASING SHADOWS"

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #96, JANUARY 1993
"SPIRITS OF VENOM, PART 3 — ENEMIES: A HATE STORY"

GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6, JANUARY 1993
"SPIRITS OF VENOM, PART 4 OF 4: LAST RITES"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #117, 1992
"CLAWS AND WEBS, PART 1 OF 6: DREAM A LITTLE DREAM...OF ME!"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #118, 1992
"CLAWS AND WEBS, PART II: DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS?"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #119, 1993
"CLAWS AND WEBS, PT. 3: DREAMS CAN'T KILL YOU... BUT THEY CAN SURE TRY!"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #120, 1993
"CLAWS AND WEBS, PART 4 OF 6: DREAMING WITH THE ENEMY"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #121, 1993
"CLAWS AND WEBS, PART 5: DREAM SCARS"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #122, 1993
"CLAWS & WEBS, PART VI: NIGHTMARE'S END!"

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #373, JANUARY 1993
"THE GETAWAY SCREAM!"

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #374, FEBRUARY 1993
"MURDER ON PARADE"

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, MARCH 1993
"THE BRIDE OF VENOM"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #1, FEBRUARY 1993
"DARK SOUL DRIFTING"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #2, MARCH 1993
"WAR AND PIECES!"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #3, APRIL 1993
"A VERDICT OF VIOLENCE"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #4, MAY 1993
"DEADLY BIRTH!"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #5, JUNE 1993
"SYMBIOCIDE"

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #6, JULY 1993
"'FRISCO KILL!"

Recently, Venom escaped from prison, leaving behind his cellmate Cletus Kasady. Unfortunately, Venom left something else behind as well — as seen in these excerpts from *Amazing Spider-Man #359-360*…

PRESSES ROLL, DESPITE MISGIVINGS, AND, AS NIGHT ONCE MORE DRAWS DARKNESS OVER NEW YORK, A PALPABLE TENSION SPREADS TO RYKER'S ISLAND, TO THE DANK CELL OF ONE CLETUS KASADY.
AND... FRIEND?
YES, OF COURSE! YOU'RE SO RIGHT!
THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE'LL DO! AND THEN--
SOLITARY CONFINEMENT GETTIN' TO YA, KASADY? WHO YA YAPPIN' TO?
TRUST ME, RAMONE: YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
SURE I DO!
THEN COME CLOSER...
...AND WE'LL SHOW YOU!
THAT SCREAM! SOUNDED LIKE RAMONE!
LOOK! IN FRONT O' KASADY'S CELL!
GOOD LORD! -choke- H-HE'S BEEN PULLED THROUGH THE BARS!
AN' THAT AIN'T ALL!
KASADY'S GONE!
MORE ON THIS VERY BIZARRE TURN OF EVENTS NEXT ISSUE!

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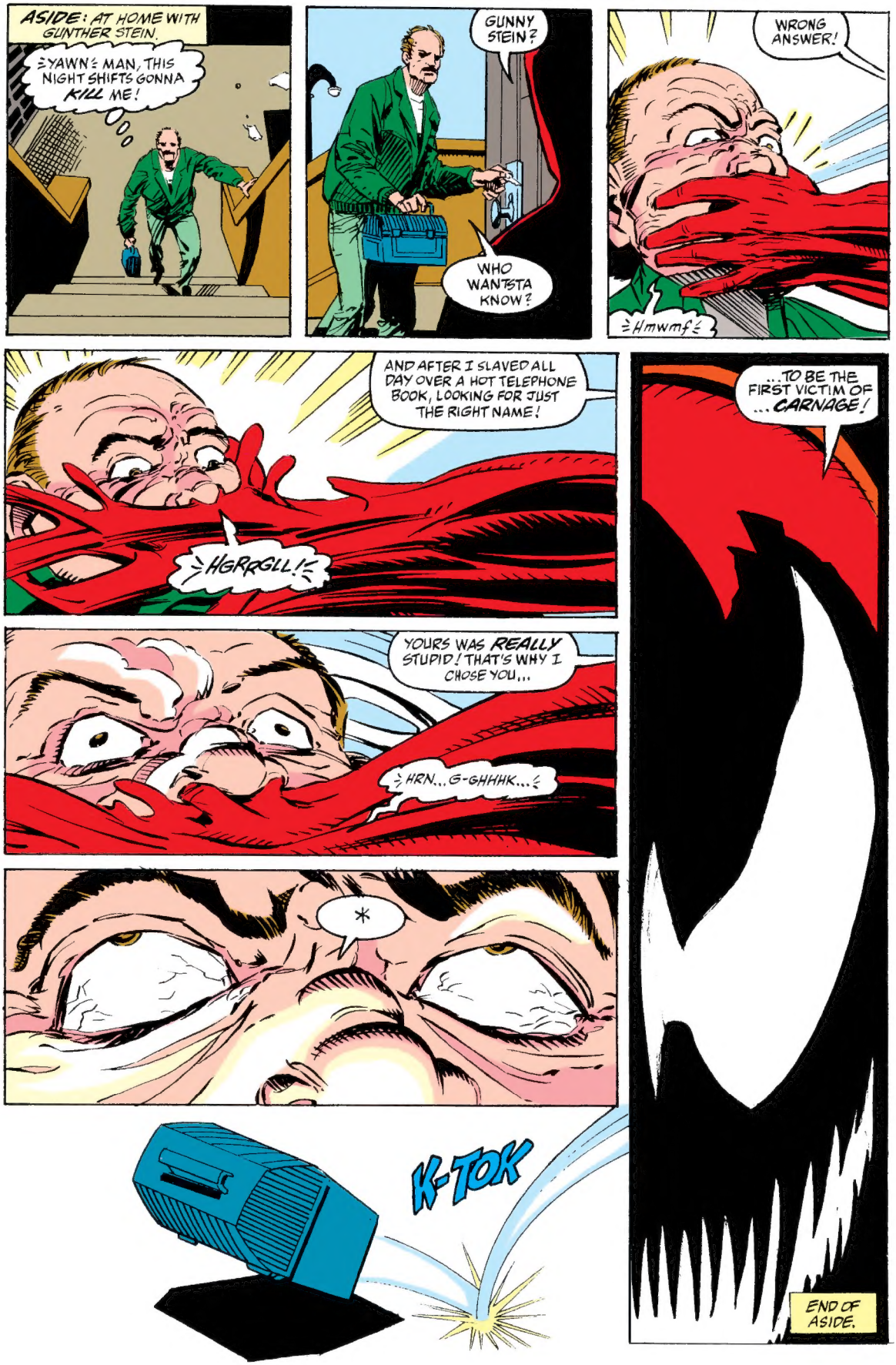
ASIDE: AT HOME WITH GUNTHER STEIN.
=YAWN= MAN, THIS NIGHT SHIFTS GONNA KILL ME!
GUNNY STEIN?
WHO WANTSTA KNOW?
WRONG ANSWER!
=Hmwmf=
AND AFTER I SLAVED ALL DAY OVER A HOT TELEPHONE BOOK, LOOKING FOR JUST THE RIGHT NAME!
=HGRRGLL!=
YOURS WAS REALLY STUPID! THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU...
=HRN... G-GHHHK...=
*
K-TOK
...TO BE THE FIRST VICTIM OF ...CARNAGE!
END OF ASIDE.

MARVEL COMICS
AT LAST! THE SPAWN OF VENOM!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
CARNAGE PART ONE
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361
APR
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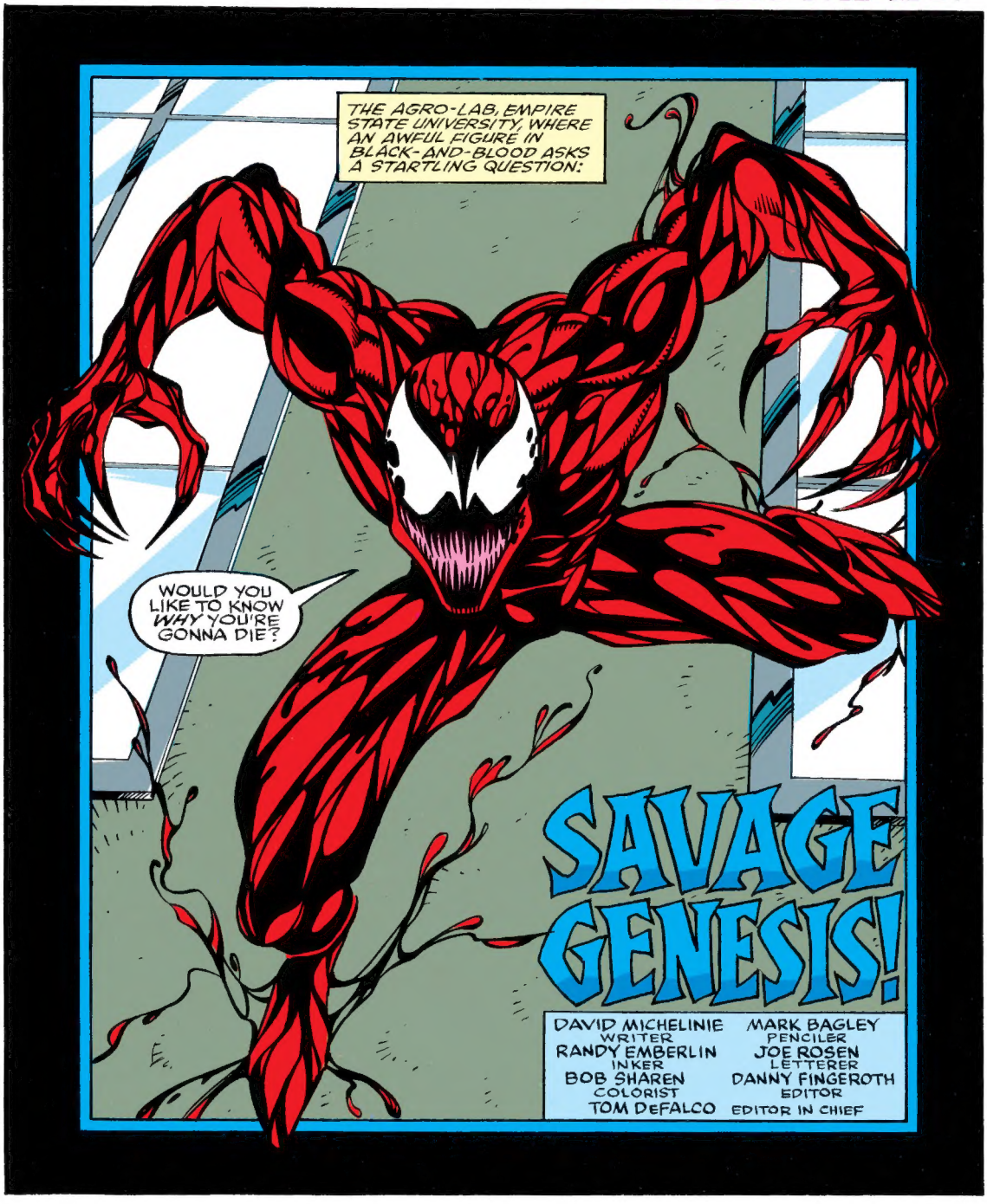
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BAGLEY + Emberlin '91

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®


THE AGRO-LAB, EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, WHERE AN AWFUL FIGURE IN BLACK-AND-BLOOD ASKS A STARTLING QUESTION:
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE GONNA DIE?
SAVAGE GENESIS!
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER
MARK BAGLEY PENCILER
RANDY EMBERLIN INKER
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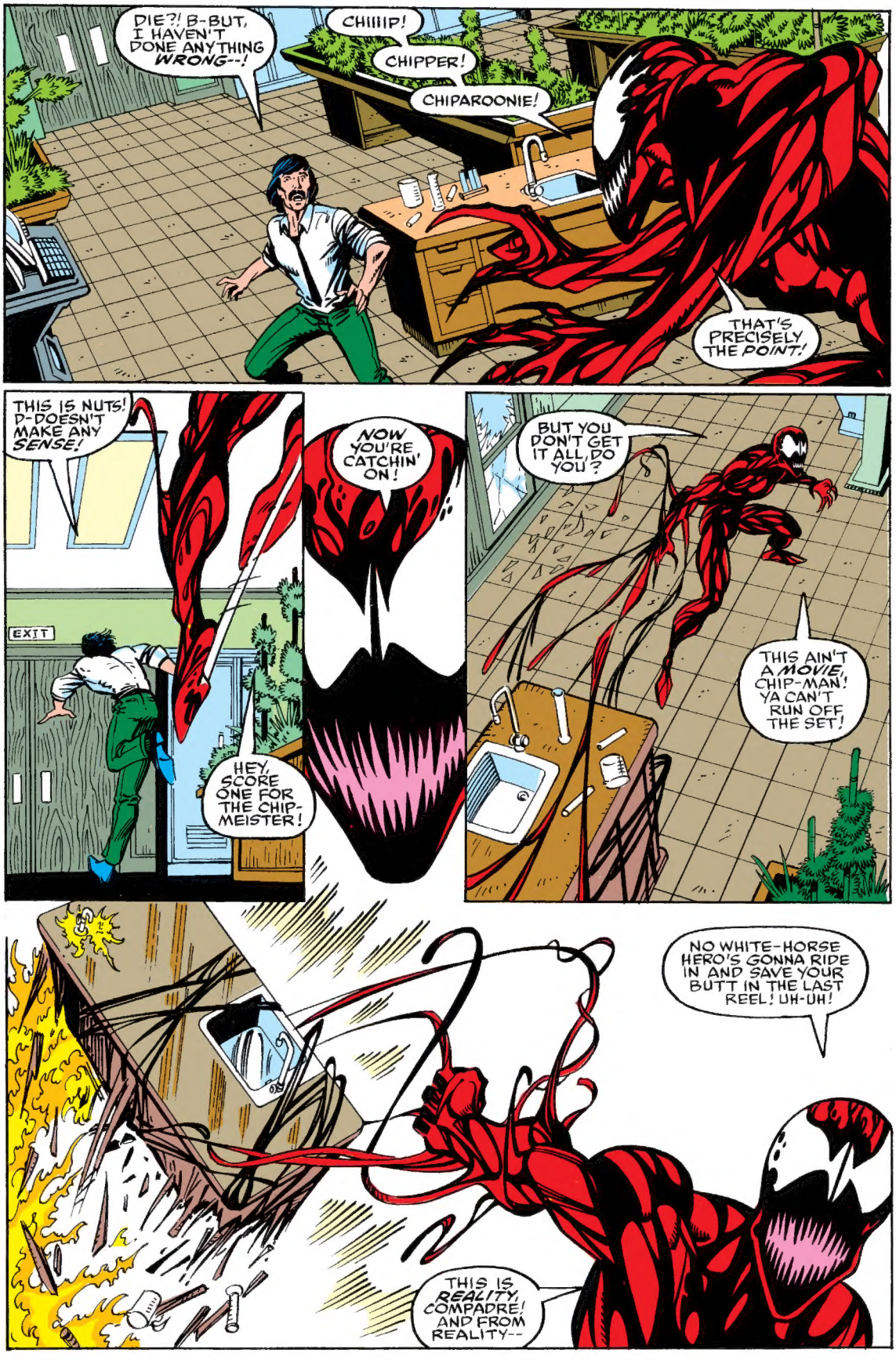
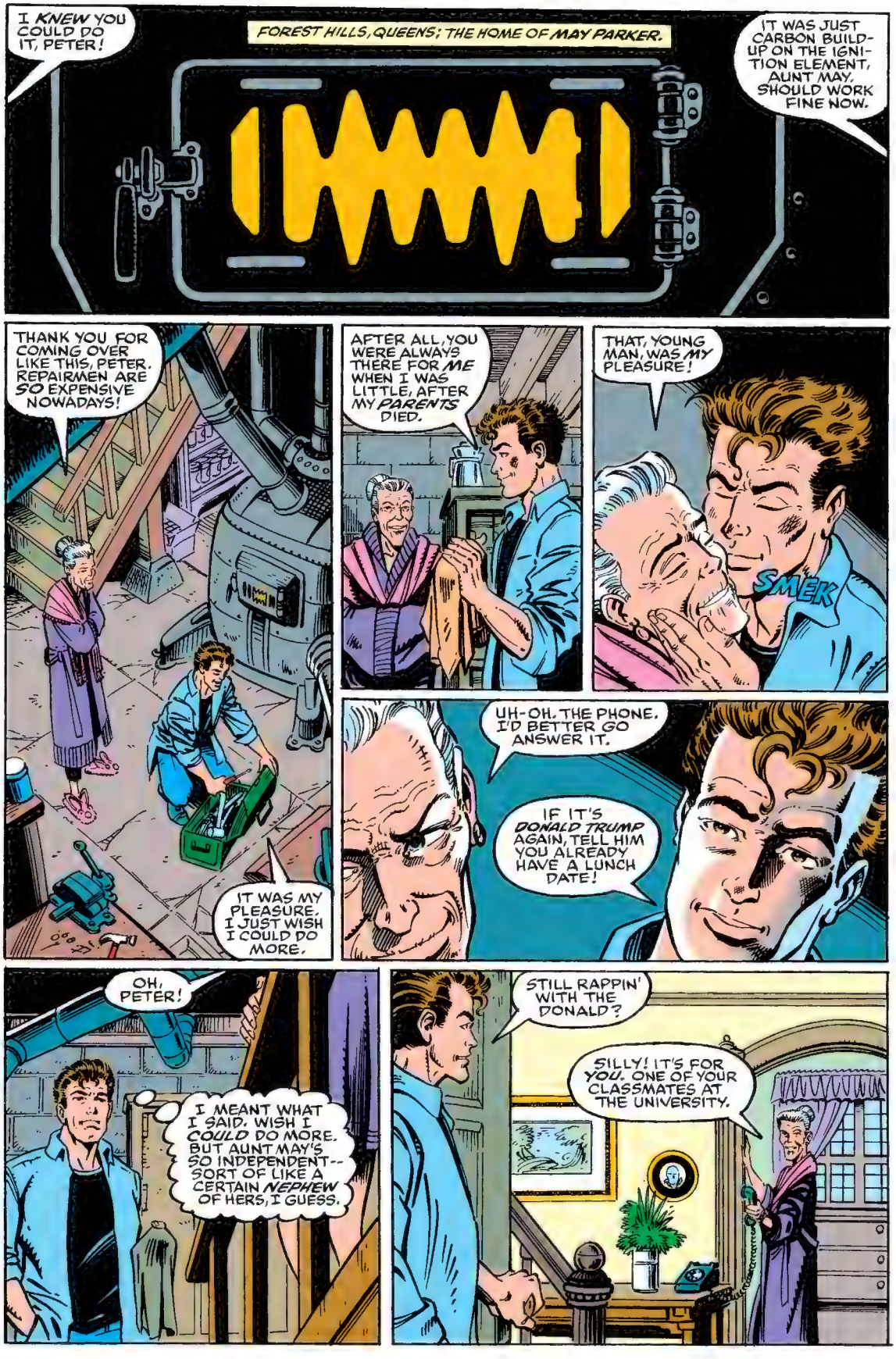
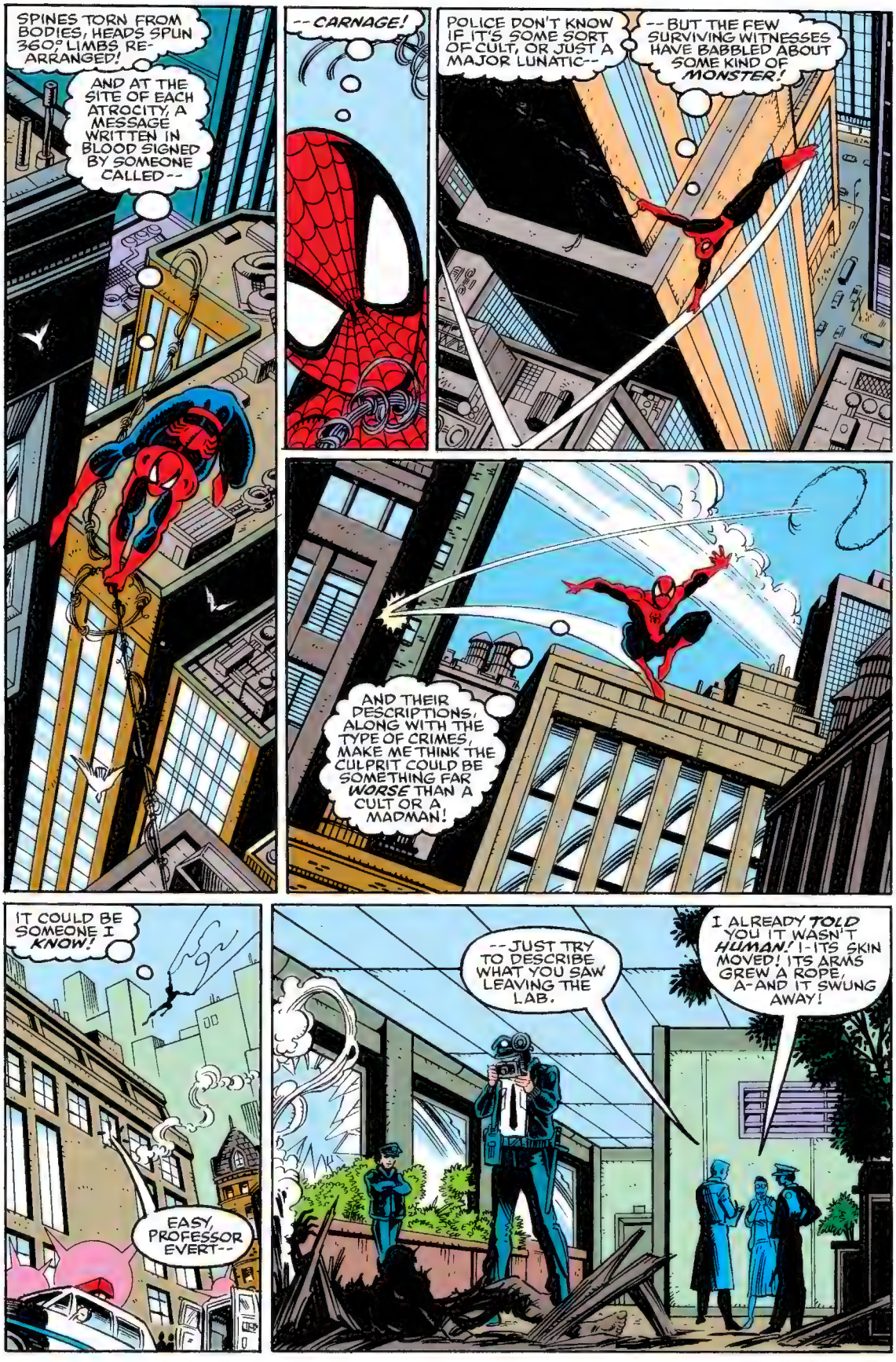
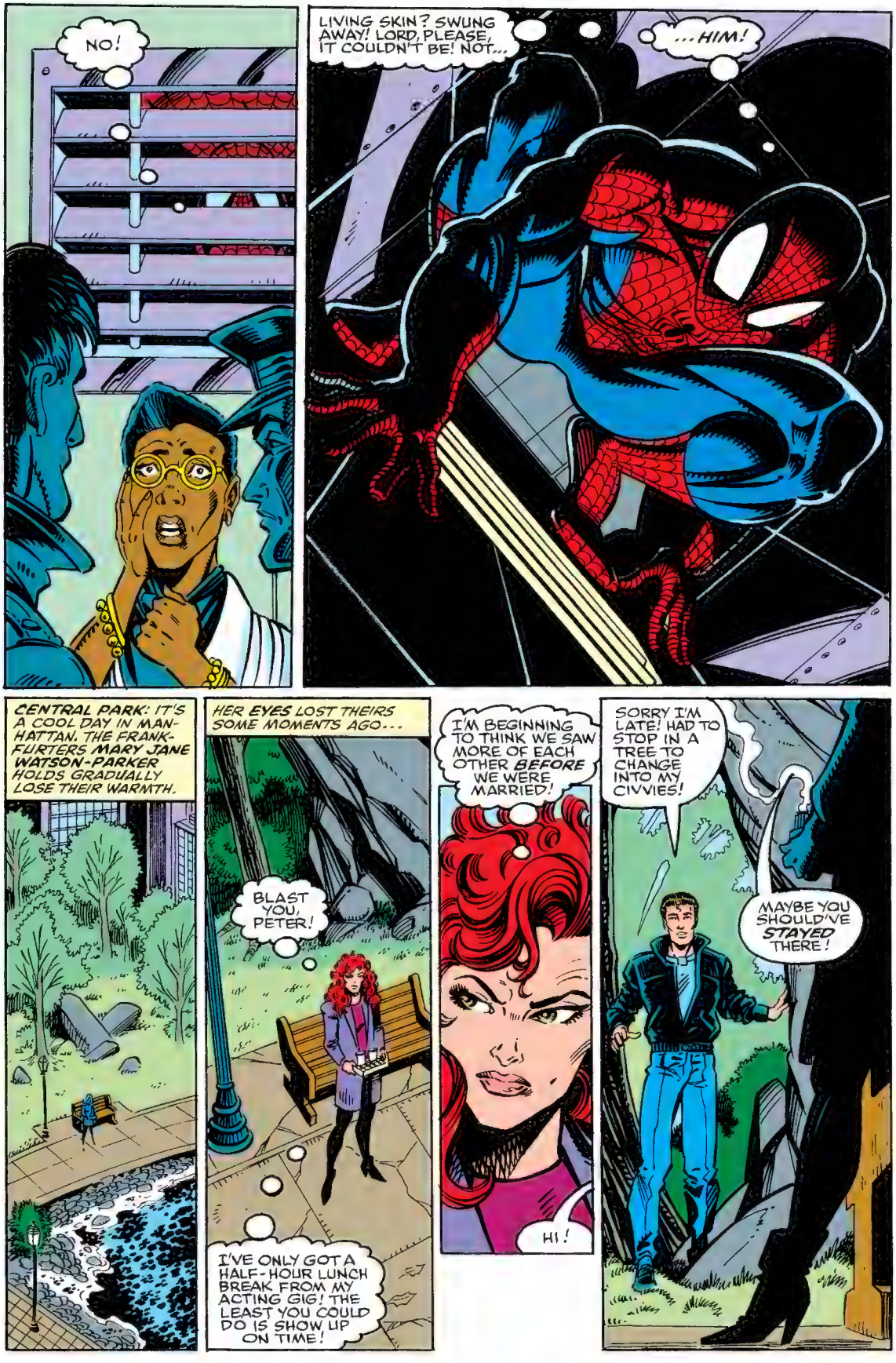

DIE?! B-BUT, I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG--!
CHIIIIP!
CHIPPER!
CHIPAROONIE!
THAT'S PRECISELY THE POINT!
THIS IS NUTS! D-DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
EXIT
HEY, SCORE ONE FOR THE CHIP-MEISTER!
NOW YOU'RE CATCHIN' ON!
BUT YOU DON'T GET IT ALL, DO YOU?
THIS AIN'T A MOVIE, CHIP-MAN! YA CAN'T RUN OFF THE SET!
NO WHITE-HORSE HERO'S GONNA RIDE IN AND SAVE YOUR BUTT IN THE LAST REEL! UH-UH!
THIS IS REALITY, COMPADRE! AND FROM REALITY--

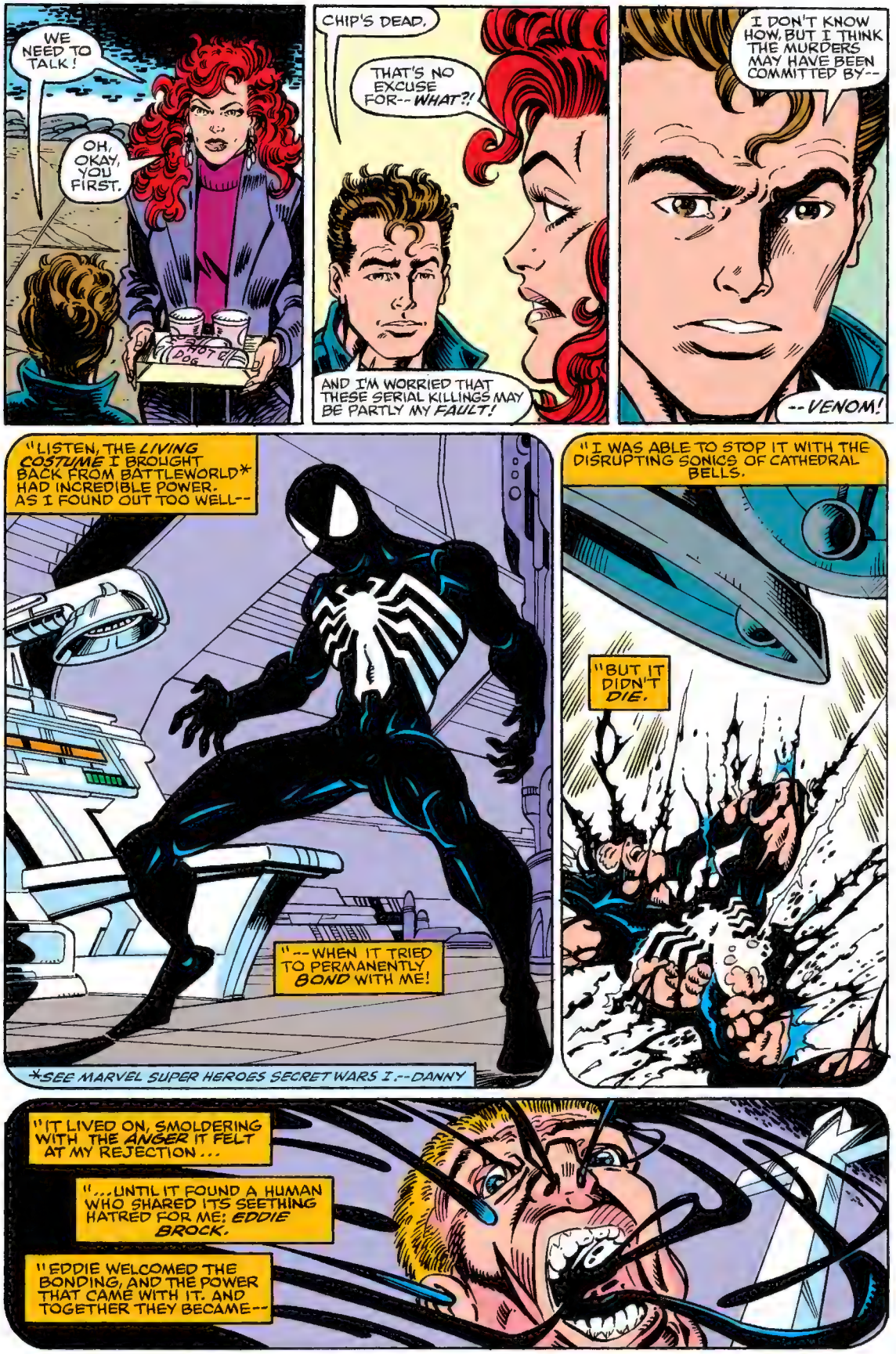
--THERE AIN'T NO ESCAPE!
KACHASH
B-BUT, WHY? FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WHY?!?
"WHY"? 'CAUSE LAW'S AN ILLUSION, CHIP-O!
AN' ORDER'S NOTHIN' BUT A TV FANTASY!
WHY AM I KILLIN' YOU, CAP'N CHIPS? THAT'S EASY.
I'M KILLIN' YOU...
THUK
THUK
...'CAUSE I CAN!


I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, PETER!
FOREST HILLS, QUEENS; THE HOME OF MAY PARKER.
IT WAS JUST CARBON BUILD-UP ON THE IGNITION ELEMENT, AUNT MAY. SHOULD WORK FINE NOW.
THANK YOU FOR COMING OVER LIKE THIS, PETER. REPAIRMEN ARE SO EXPENSIVE NOWADAYS!
IT WAS MY PLEASURE. I JUST WISH I COULD DO MORE.
AFTER ALL, YOU WERE ALWAYS THERE FOR ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE, AFTER MY PARENTS DIED.
THAT, YOUNG MAN, WAS MY PLEASURE!
SMEK
UH-OH. THE PHONE. I'D BETTER GO ANSWER IT.
IF IT'S DONALD TRUMP AGAIN, TELL HIM YOU ALREADY HAVE A LUNCH DATE!
OH, PETER!
I MEANT WHAT I SAID. WISH I COULD DO MORE. BUT AUNT MAY'S SO INDEPENDENT--SORT OF LIKE A CERTAIN NEPHEW OF HERS, I GUESS.
STILL RAPPIN' WITH THE DONALD?
SILLY! IT'S FOR YOU. ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES AT THE UNIVERSITY.

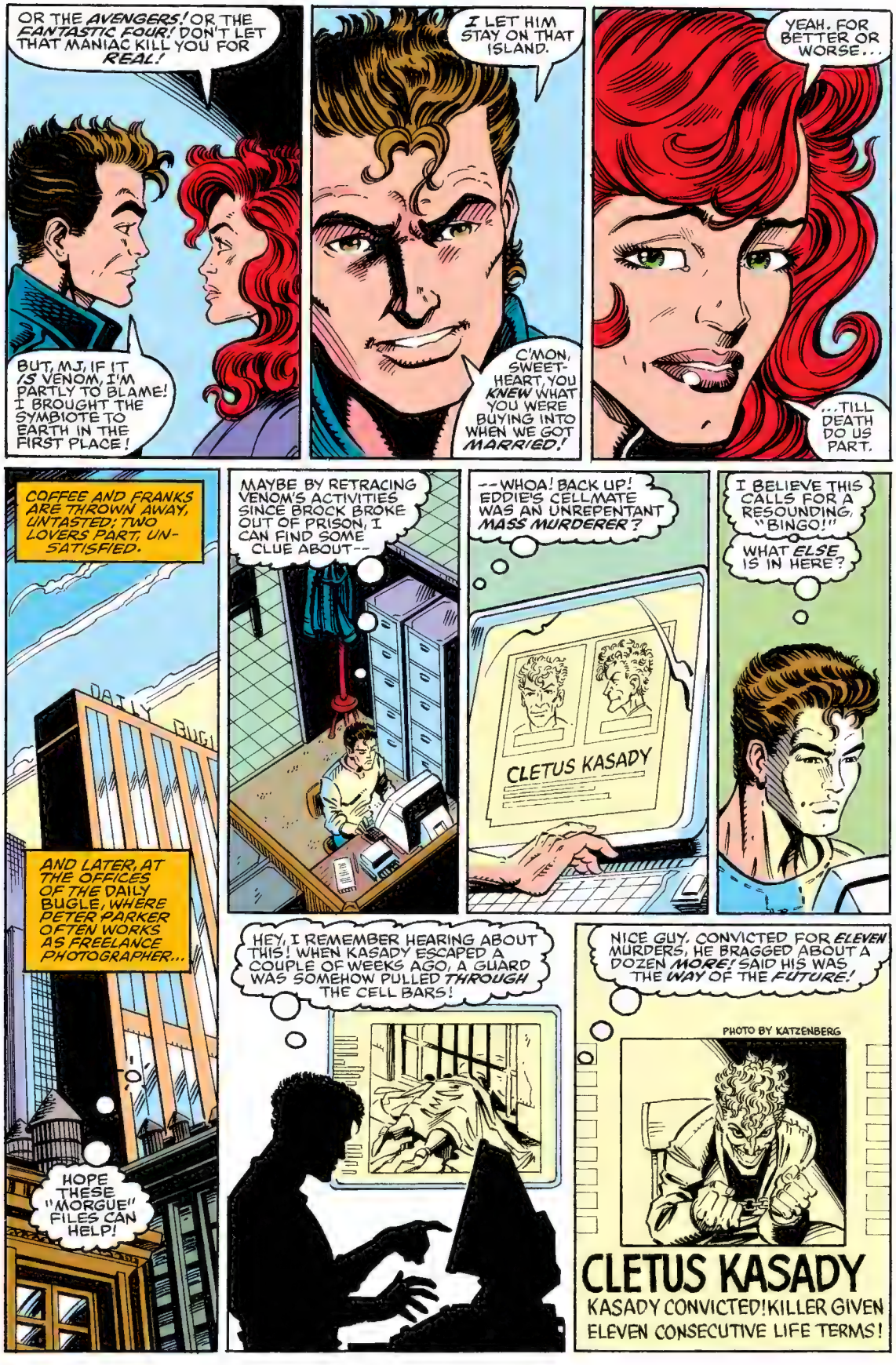
HEY! ETHAN! HALF OF THE LEGENDARY "GREEN TEAM"! HOW'S--HUH?
CHIP?! B-BUT--?
AW, GEEZ!
YEAH. TH-THANKS FOR TELLING ME. I'M...REALLY SORRY.
I...I HAVE TO GO, AUNT MAY. SOMEONE I KNOW'S BEEN HURT.
A, UM LAB ACCIDENT!
SOON, OUTSIDE...
SHE'LL HEAR THE TRUTH ON TV. BUT HOW COULD I TELL HER THAT ONE OF MY FRIENDS, SOMEONE I SEE EVERY DAY AT E.S.U.--
--WAS JUST SLAUGHTERED LIKE A PIG ON A SPIT!
EVEN SADDER, CHIP'S NOT THE FIRST! THERE'VE BEEN A DOZEN INCREDIBLY BRUTAL MURDERS IN NEW YORK IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO!

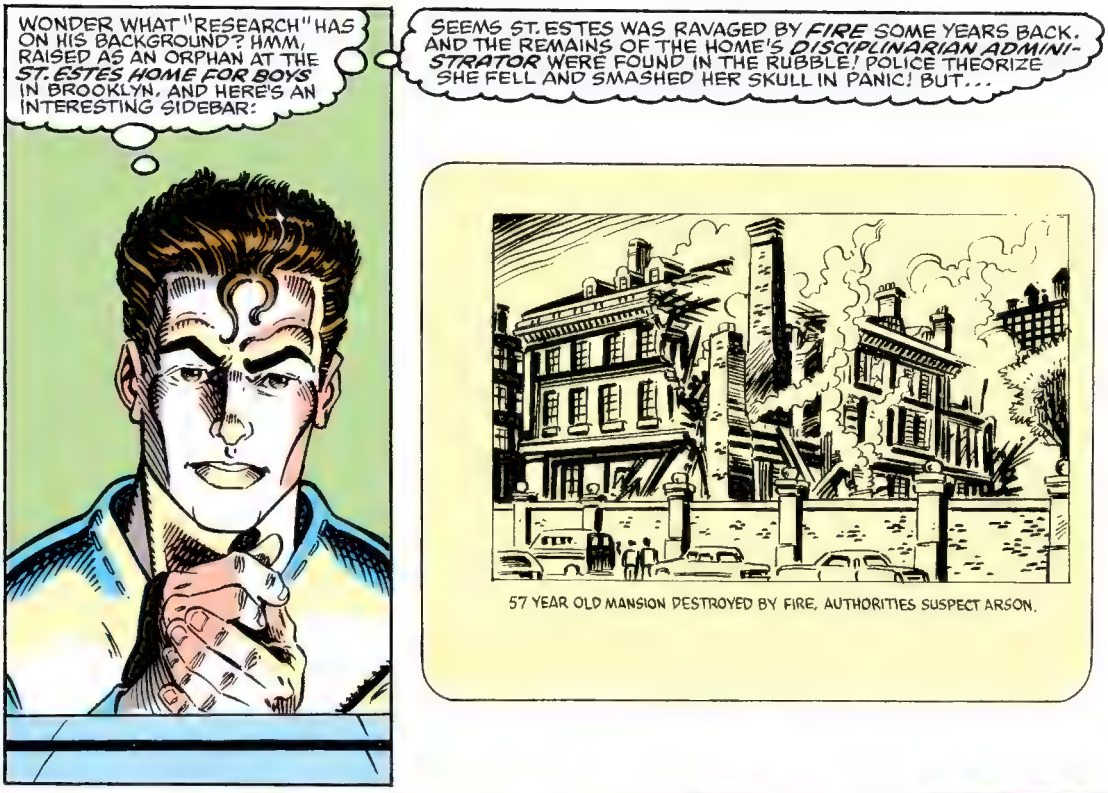

SPINES TORN FROM BODIES, HEADS SPUN 360°, LIMBS RE-ARRANGED!
AND AT THE SITE OF EACH ATROCITY, A MESSAGE WRITTEN IN BLOOD SIGNED BY SOMEONE CALLED--
--CARNAGE!
POLICE DON'T KNOW IF IT'S SOME SORT OF CULT, OR JUST A MAJOR LUNATIC--
--BUT THE FEW SURVIVING WITNESSES HAVE BABBLED ABOUT SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
AND THEIR DESCRIPTIONS, ALONG WITH THE TYPE OF CRIMES, MAKE ME THINK THE CULPRIT COULD BE SOMETHING FAR WORSE THAN A CULT OR A MADMAN!
IT COULD BE SOMEONE I KNOW!
EASY, PROFESSOR EVERT--
--JUST TRY TO DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SAW LEAVING THE LAB.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU IT WASN'T HUMAN! I-ITS SKIN MOVED! ITS ARMS GREW A ROPE, A-AND IT SWUNG AWAY!

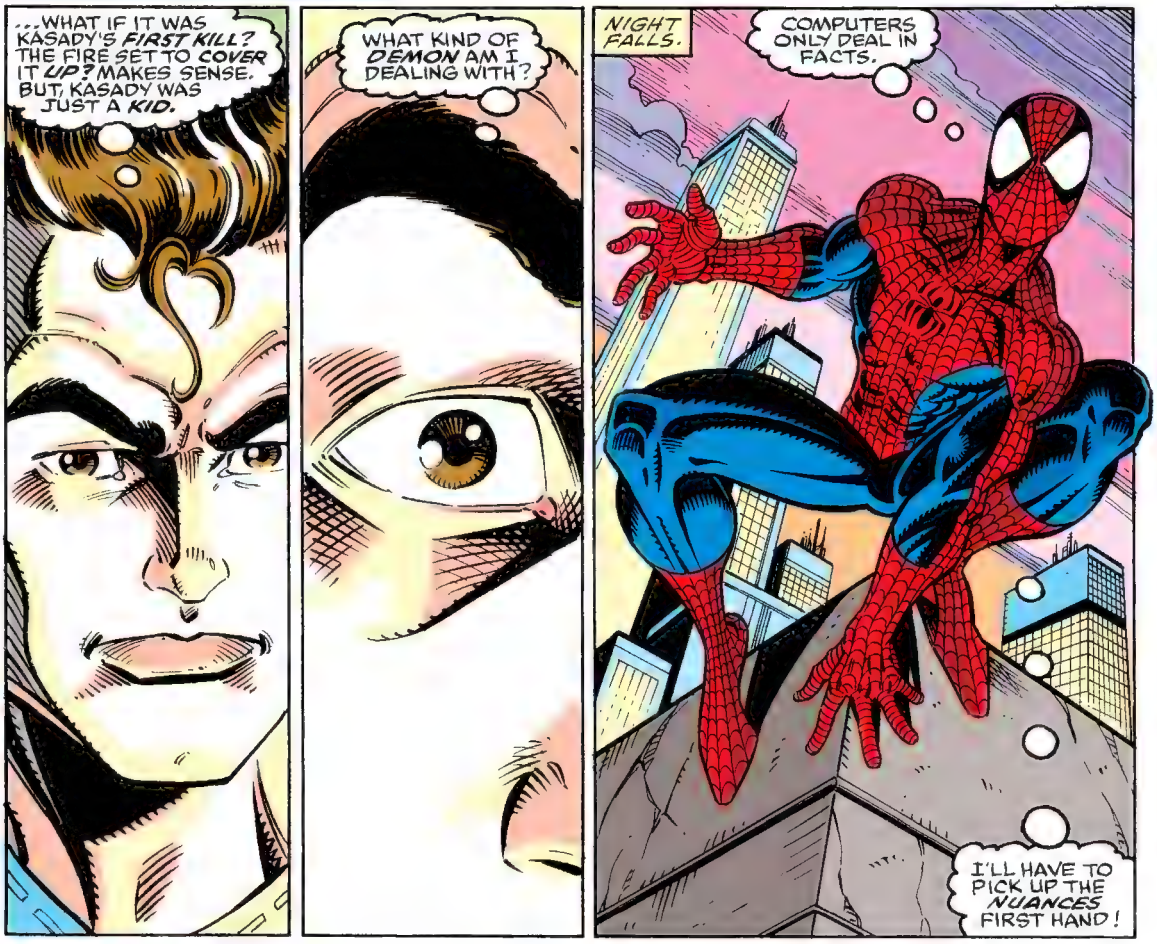

NO!
LIVING SKIN? SWUNG AWAY! LORD, PLEASE, IT COULDN'T BE! NOT...
...HIM!
CENTRAL PARK: IT'S A COOL DAY IN MANHATTAN. THE FRANKFURTERS MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER HOLDS GRADUALLY LOSE THEIR WARMTH.
HER EYES LOST THEIRS SOME MOMENTS AGO...
BLAST YOU, PETER!
I'VE ONLY GOT A HALF-HOUR LUNCH BREAK FROM MY ACTING GIG! THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SHOW UP ON TIME!
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK WE SAW MORE OF EACH OTHER BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED!
HI!
SORRY I'M LATE! HAD TO STOP IN A TREE TO CHANGE INTO MY CIVVIES!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED THERE!

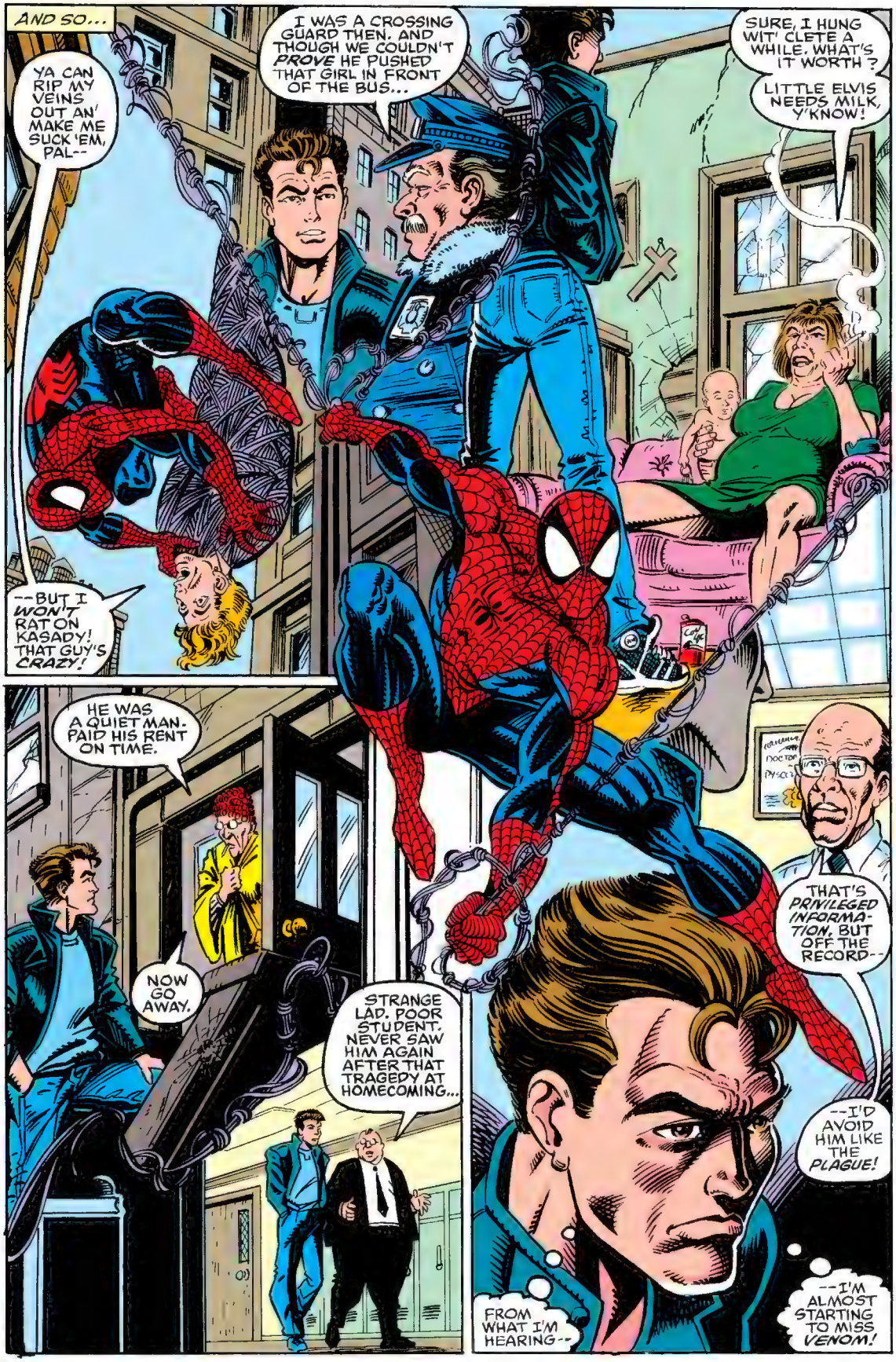

WE NEED TO TALK!
OH, OKAY, YOU FIRST.
HOT DOG
CHIP'S DEAD.
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR--WHAT?!
AND I'M WORRIED THAT THESE SERIAL KILLINGS MAY BE PARTLY MY FAULT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I THINK THE MURDERS MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY--
--VENOM!
"LISTEN, THE LIVING COSTUME I BROUGHT BACK FROM BATTLEWORLD* HAD INCREDIBLE POWER. AS I FOUND OUT TOO WELL--
"--WHEN IT TRIED TO PERMANENTLY BOND WITH ME!
*SEE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS I.--DANNY
"I WAS ABLE TO STOP IT WITH THE DISRUPTING SONICS OF CATHEDRAL BELLS.
"BUT IT DIDN'T DIE.
"IT LIVED ON, SMOLDERING WITH THE ANGER IT FELT AT MY REJECTION...
"...UNTIL IT FOUND A HUMAN WHO SHARED ITS SEETHING HATRED FOR ME: EDDIE BROCK.
"EDDIE WELCOMED THE BONDING, AND THE POWER THAT CAME WITH IT. AND TOGETHER THEY BECAME--

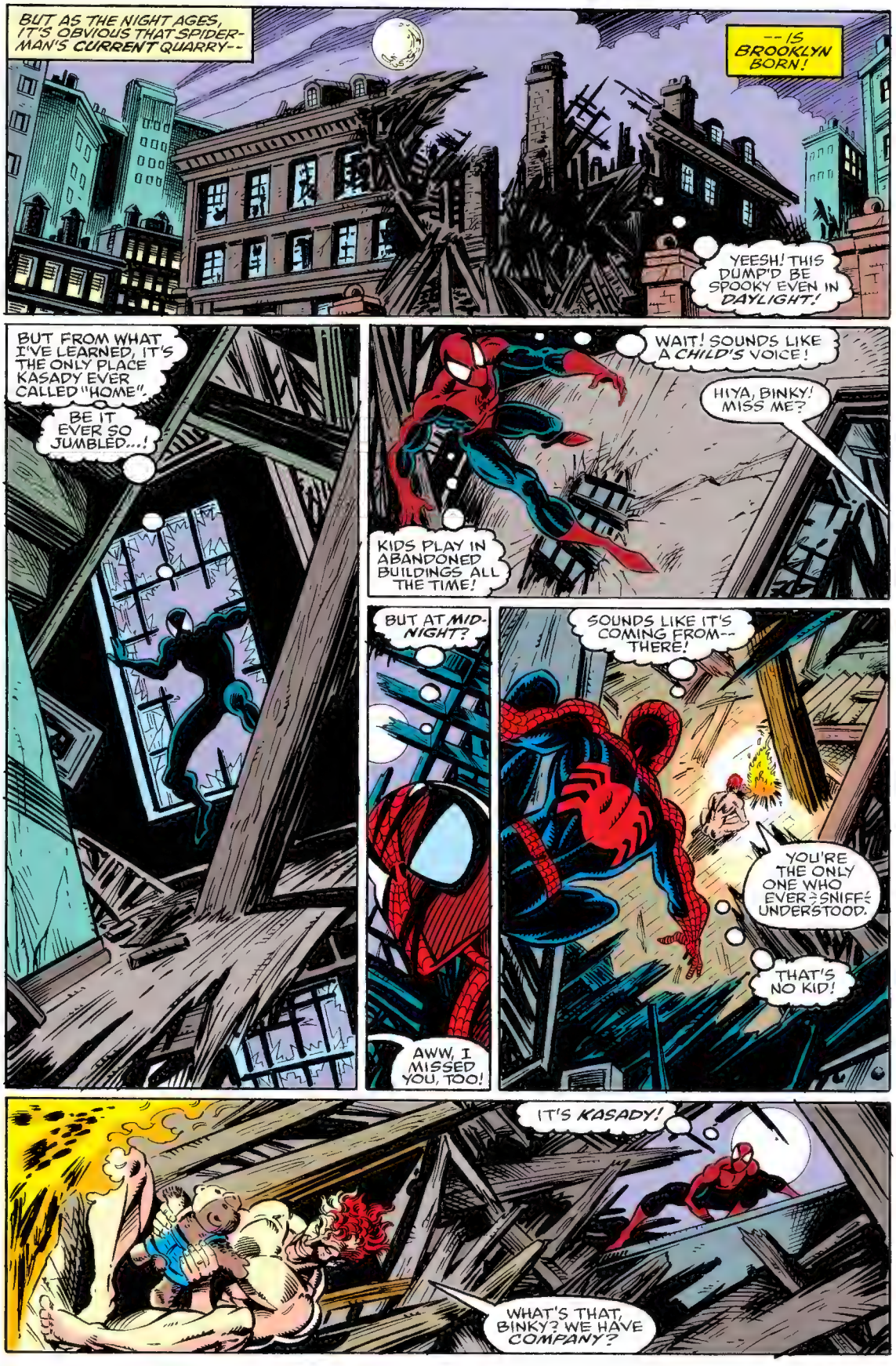
"--VENOM, THE DEADLIEST FOE SPIDER-MAN HAS EVER FACED! A FIEND WHOSE SOLE MOTIVATION, WHOSE ONLY GOAL IN LIFE--
"--IS MY DEATH!
"I THOUGHT OUR BATTLE ON THAT DESERTED CARIBBEAN ISLAND ENDED THINGS...
"...WHEN I TRICKED VENOM INTO THINKING--
"--HE'D ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN KILLING ME!
"FREED FROM THEIR DRIVING HATRED, EDDIE AND THE ALIEN WERE CONTENT TO REMAIN ON THE ISLAND, FINDING PEACE AT LAST.
IN ASM # 347.--D
BUT THE BIZARRE NATURE OF THE MURDERS, THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE KILLER, SOUND TOO MUCH LIKE--
LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE, PETER!

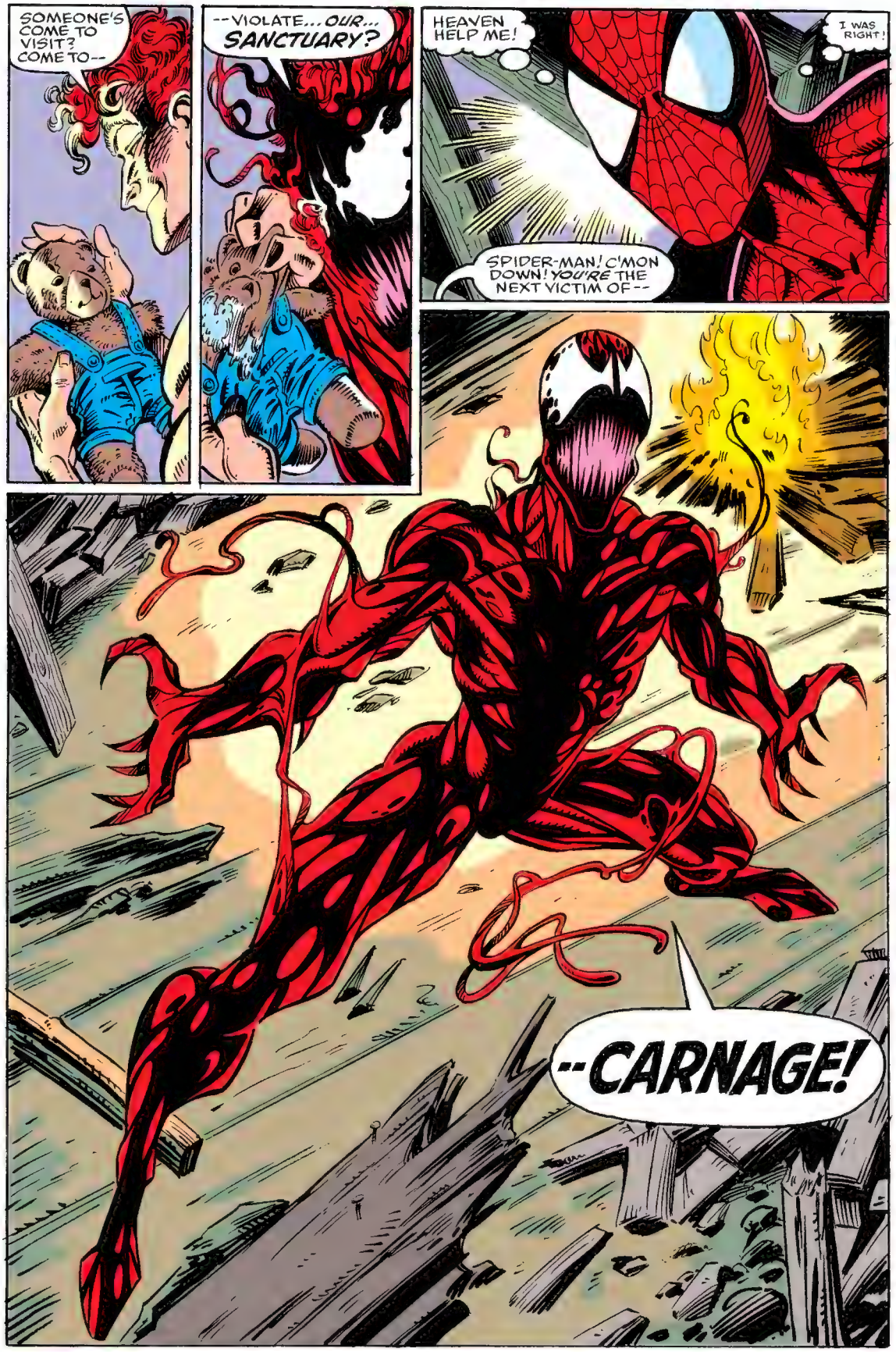

OR THE AVENGERS! OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR! DON'T LET THAT MANIAC KILL YOU FOR REAL!
BUT, MJ, IF IT IS VENOM, I'M PARTLY TO BLAME! I BROUGHT THE SYMBIOTE TO EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I LET HIM STAY ON THAT ISLAND.
C'MON, SWEETHEART, YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE BUYING INTO WHEN WE GOT MARRIED!
YEAH. FOR BETTER OR WORSE...
...TILL DEATH DO US PART.
COFFEE AND FRANKS ARE THROWN AWAY, UNTASTED; TWO LOVERS PART, UNSATISFIED.
AND LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WHERE PETER PARKER OFTEN WORKS AS FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER...
HOPE THESE "MORGUE" FILES CAN HELP!
MAYBE BY RETRACING VENOM'S ACTIVITIES SINCE BROCK BROKE OUT OF PRISON, I CAN FIND SOME CLUE ABOUT--
--WHOA! BACK UP! EDDIE'S CELLMATE WAS AN UNREPENTANT MASS MURDERER?
CLETUS KASADY
I BELIEVE THIS CALLS FOR A RESOUNDING, "BINGO!"
WHAT ELSE IS IN HERE?
HEY, I REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT THIS! WHEN KASADY ESCAPED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, A GUARD WAS SOMEHOW PULLED THROUGH THE CELL BARS!
NICE GUY. CONVICTED FOR ELEVEN MURDERS, HE BRAGGED ABOUT A DOZEN MORE! SAID HIS WAS THE WAY OF THE FUTURE!
PHOTO BY KATZENBERG
CLETUS KASADY
KASADY CONVICTED! KILLER GIVEN ELEVEN CONSECUTIVE LIFE TERMS!

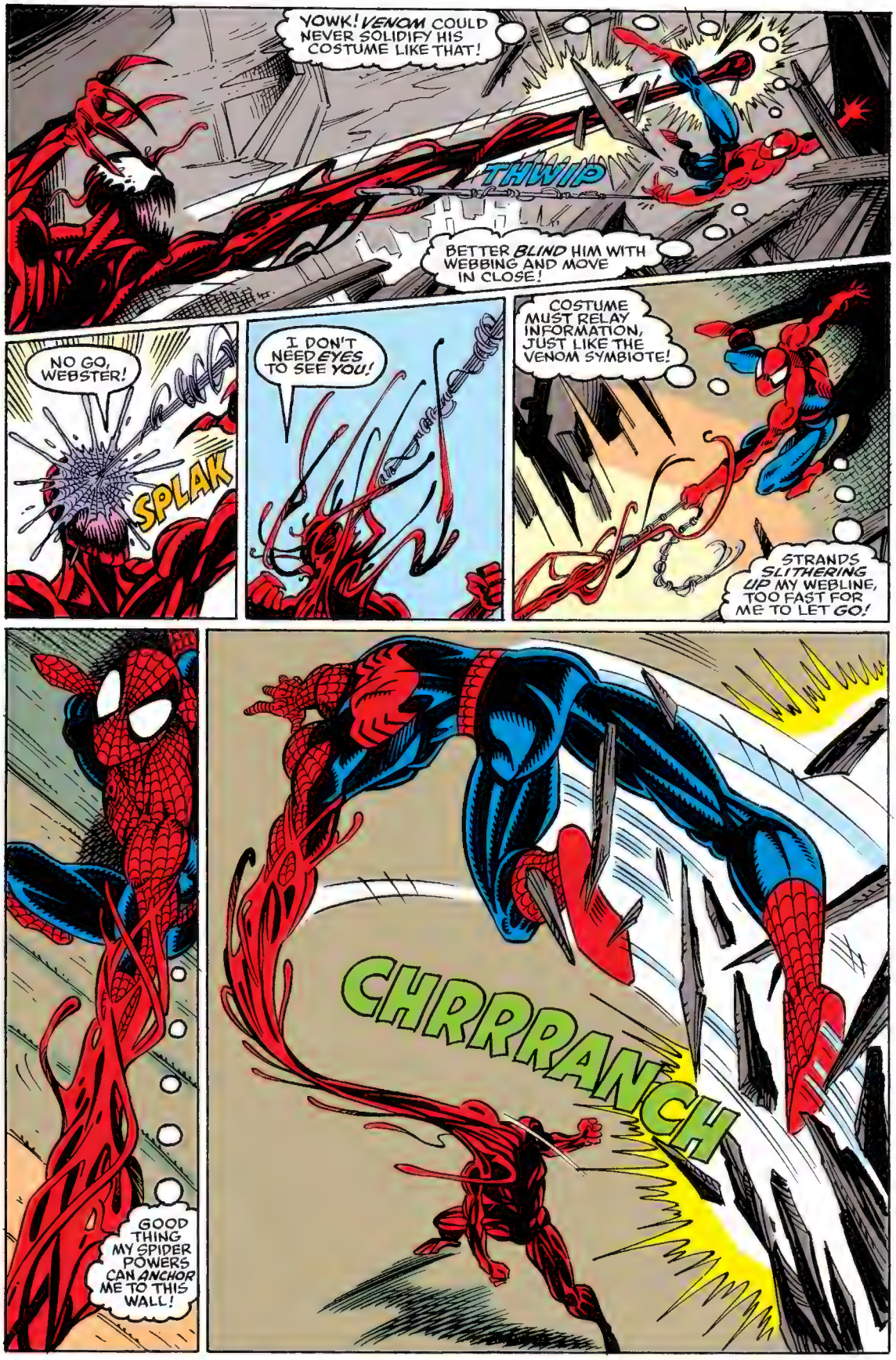

WONDER WHAT "RESEARCH" HAS ON HIS BACKGROUND? HMM, RAISED AS AN ORPHAN AT THE ST. ESTES HOME FOR BOYS IN BROOKLYN, AND HERE'S AN INTERESTING SIDEBAR:
SEEMS ST. ESTES WAS RAVAGED BY FIRE SOME YEARS BACK. AND THE REMAINS OF THE HOME'S DISCIPLINARIAN ADMINISTRATOR WERE FOUND IN THE RUBBLE! POLICE THEORIZE SHE FELL AND SMASHED HER SKULL IN PANIC! BUT...
57 YEAR OLD MANSION DESTROYED BY FIRE, AUTHORITIES SUSPECT ARSON.

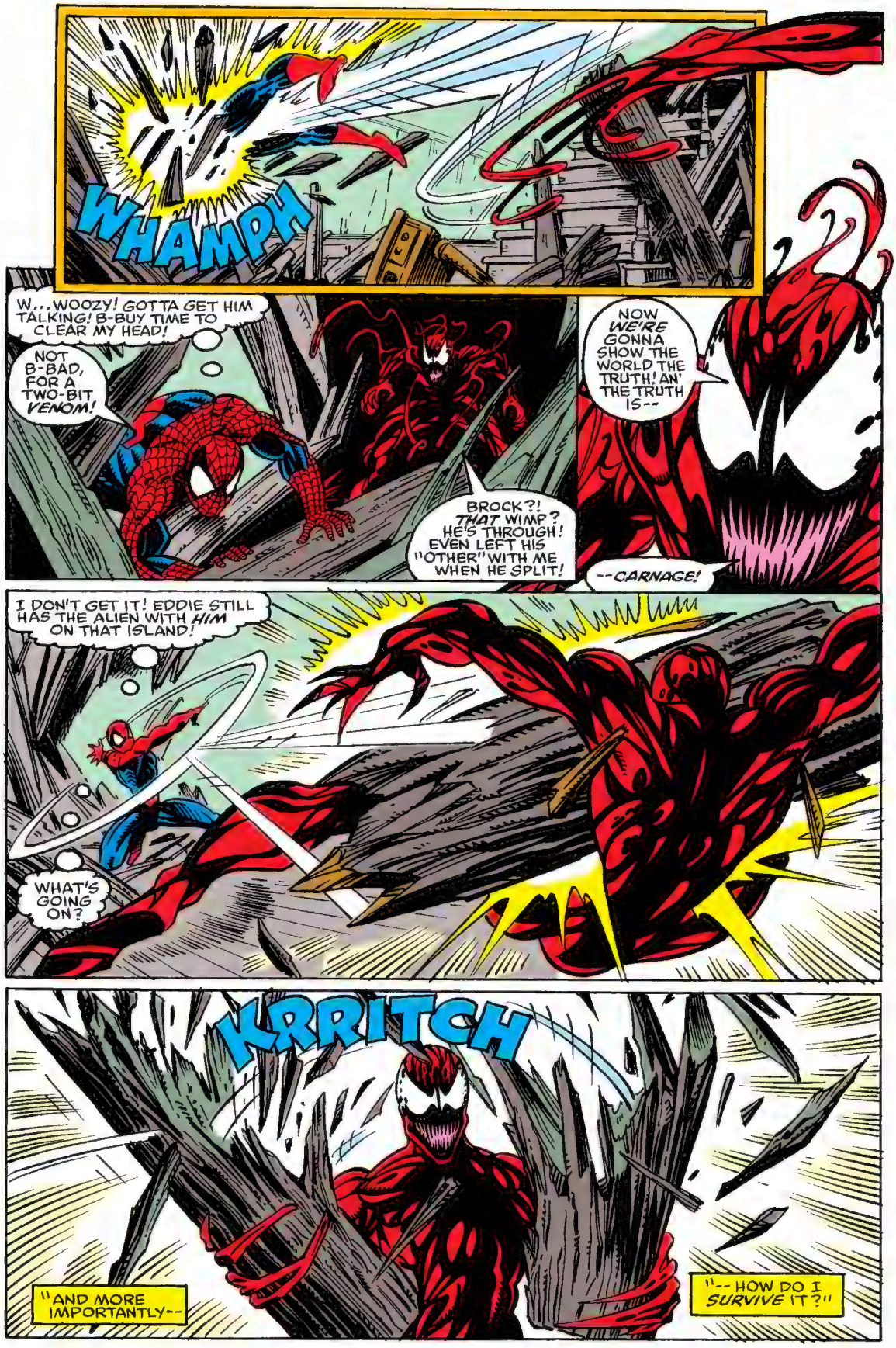

...WHAT IF IT WAS KASADY'S FIRST KILL? THE FIRE SET TO COVER IT UP? MAKES SENSE. BUT, KASADY WAS JUST A KID.
WHAT KIND OF DEMON AM I DEALING WITH?
NIGHT FALLS.
COMPUTERS ONLY DEAL IN FACTS.
I'LL HAVE TO PICK UP THE NUANCES FIRST HAND!

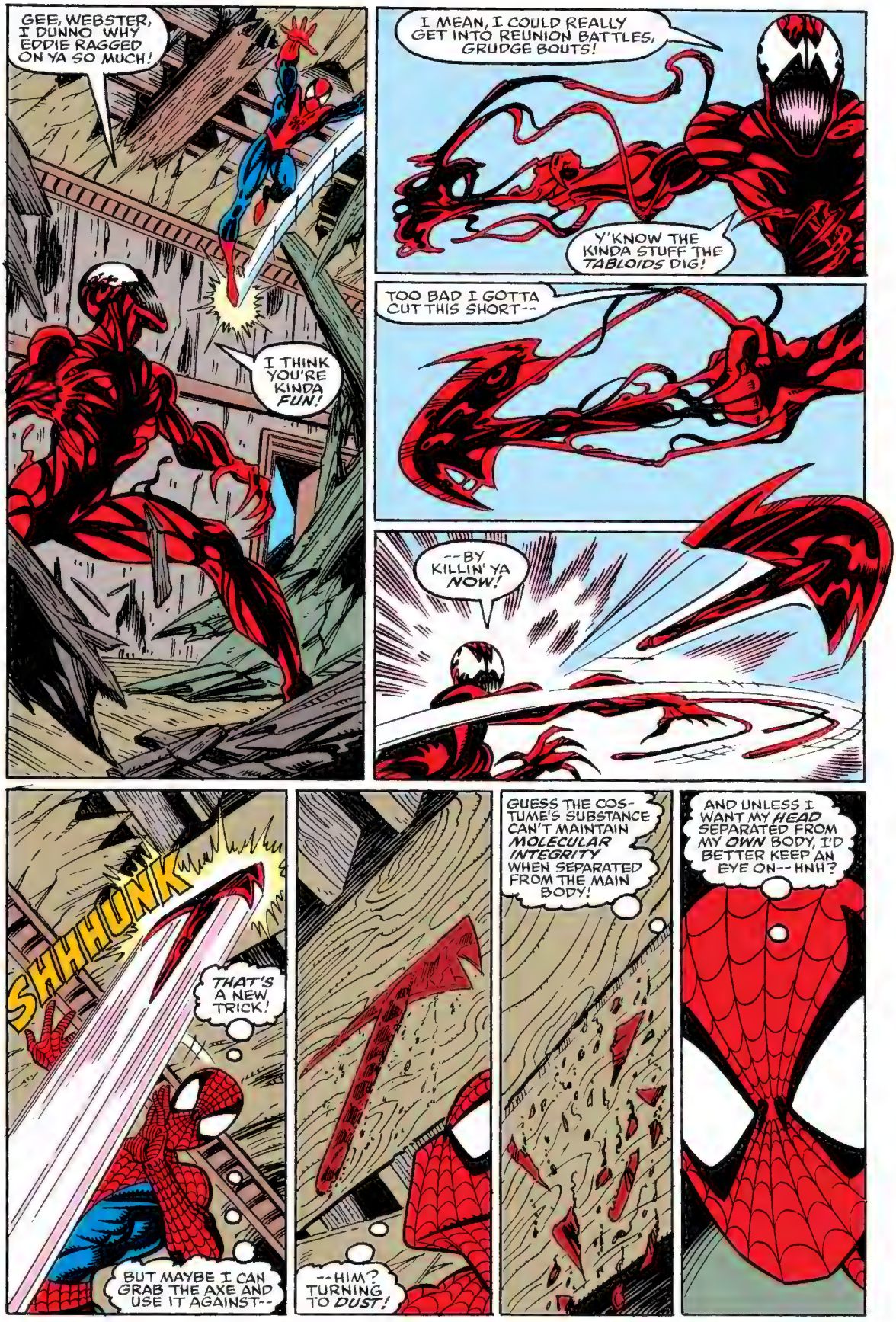

AND SO...
YA CAN RIP MY VEINS OUT AN' MAKE ME SUCK 'EM, PAL--
--BUT I WON'T RAT ON KASADY! THAT GUY'S CRAZY!
I WAS A CROSSING GUARD THEN. AND THOUGH WE COULDN'T PROVE HE PUSHED THAT GIRL IN FRONT OF THE BUS...
SURE, I HUNG WIT' CLETE A WHILE. WHAT'S IT WORTH?
LITTLE ELVIS NEEDS MILK, Y'KNOW!
HE WAS A QUIET MAN. PAID HIS RENT ON TIME.
NOW GO AWAY.
STRANGE LAD. POOR STUDENT. NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN AFTER THAT TRAGEDY AT HOMECOMING...
THAT'S PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, BUT OFF THE RECORD--
--I'D AVOID HIM LIKE THE PLAGUE!
FROM WHAT I'M HEARING--
--I'M ALMOST STARTING TO MISS VENOM!

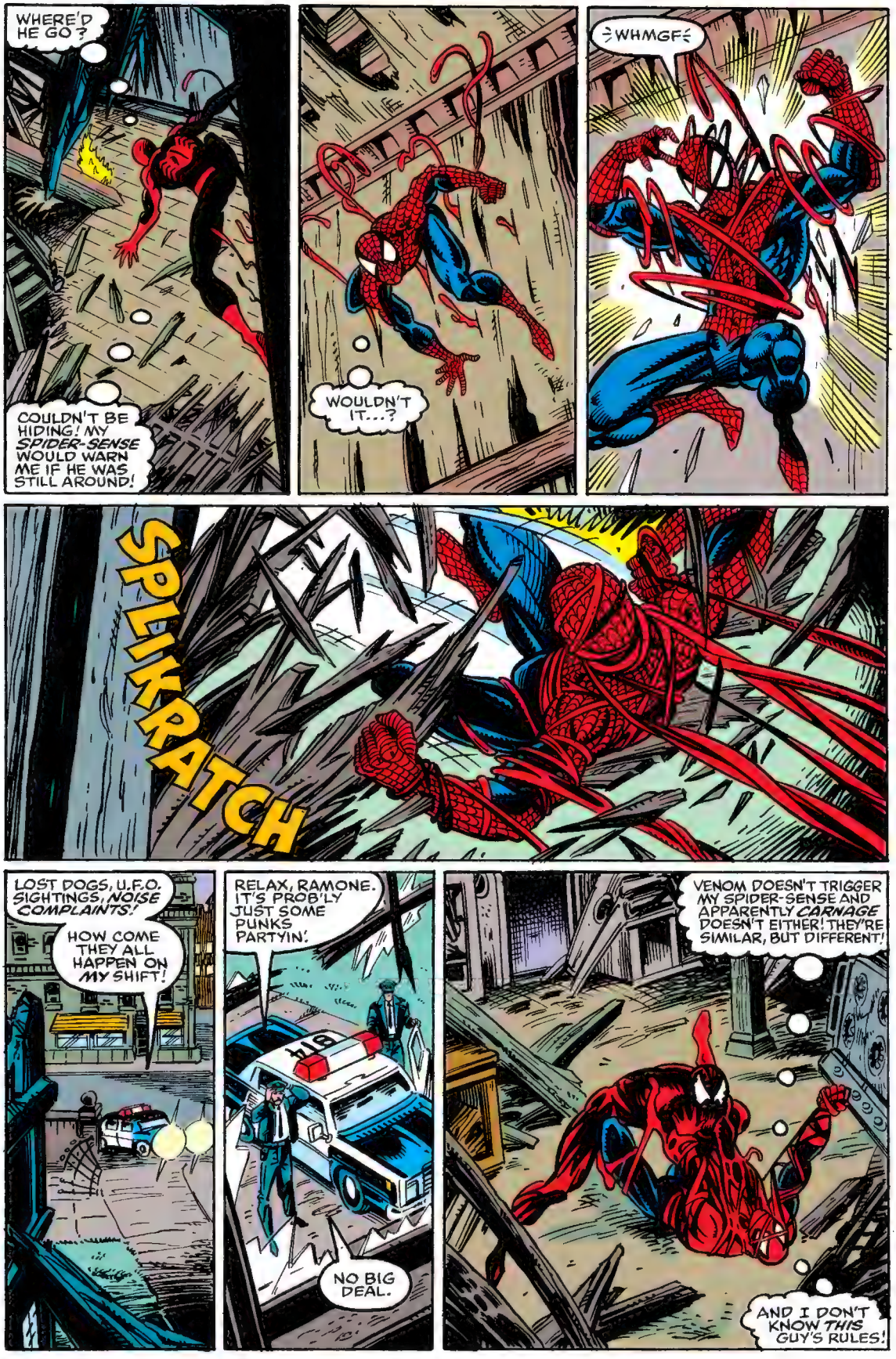

BUT AS THE NIGHT AGES, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SPIDER-MAN'S CURRENT QUARRY--
--IS BROOKLYN BORN!
YEESH! THIS DUMP'D BE SPOOKY EVEN IN DAYLIGHT!
BUT FROM WHAT I'VE LEARNED, IT'S THE ONLY PLACE KASADY EVER CALLED "HOME".
BE IT EVER SO JUMBLED...!
WAIT! SOUNDS LIKE A CHILD'S VOICE!
HIYA, BINKY! MISS ME?
KIDS PLAY IN ABANDONED BUILDINGS ALL THE TIME!
BUT AT MID-NIGHT?
AWW, I MISSED YOU, TOO!
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM--THERE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER SNIFF UNDERSTOOD.
THAT'S NO KID!
IT'S KASADY!
WHAT'S THAT, BINKY? WE HAVE COMPANY?

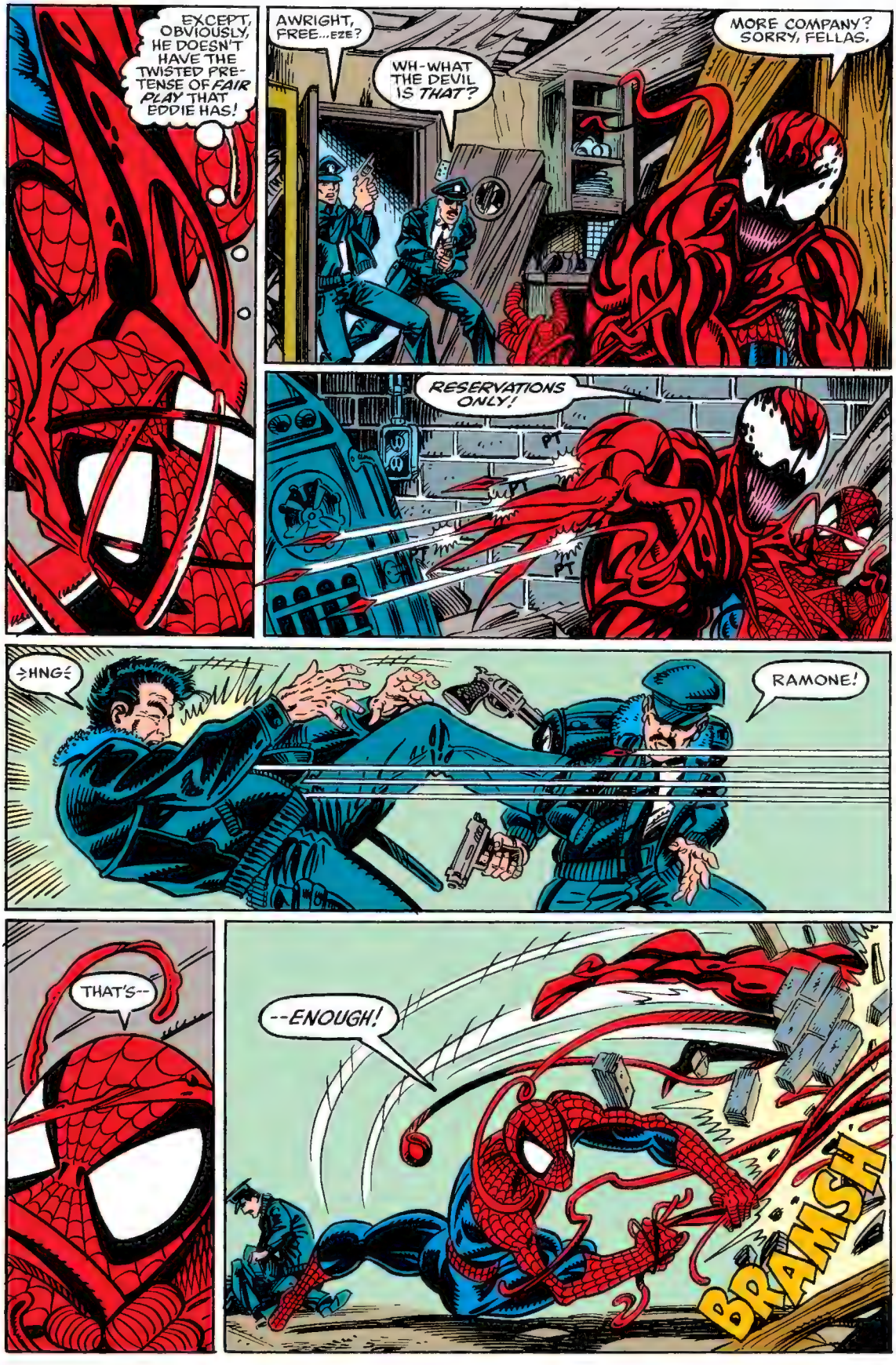

SOMEONE'S COME TO VISIT? COME TO--
--VIOLATE... OUR... SANCTUARY?
HEAVEN HELP ME!
I WAS RIGHT!
SPIDER-MAN! C'MON DOWN! YOU'RE THE NEXT VICTIM OF--
--CARNAGE!

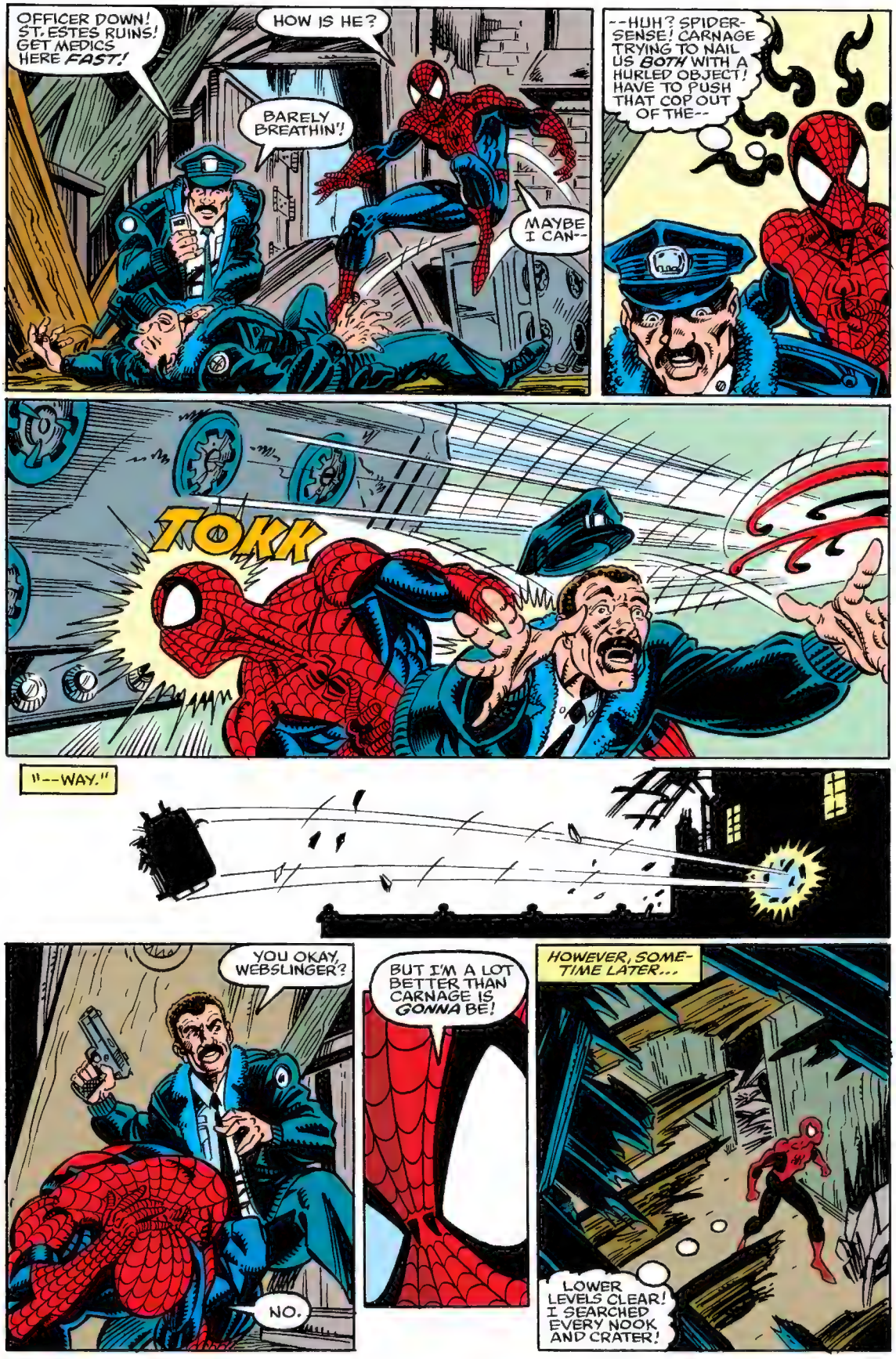

YOWK! VENOM COULD NEVER SOLIDIFY HIS COSTUME LIKE THAT!
THWIP
BETTER BLIND HIM WITH WEBBING AND MOVE IN CLOSE!
NO GO, WEBSTER!
SPLAK
I DON'T NEED EYES TO SEE YOU!
COSTUME MUST RELAY INFORMATION, JUST LIKE THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!
STRANDS SLITHERING UP MY WEBLINE, TOO FAST FOR ME TO LET GO!
GOOD THING MY SPIDER POWERS CAN ANCHOR ME TO THIS WALL!
CHRRRANCH

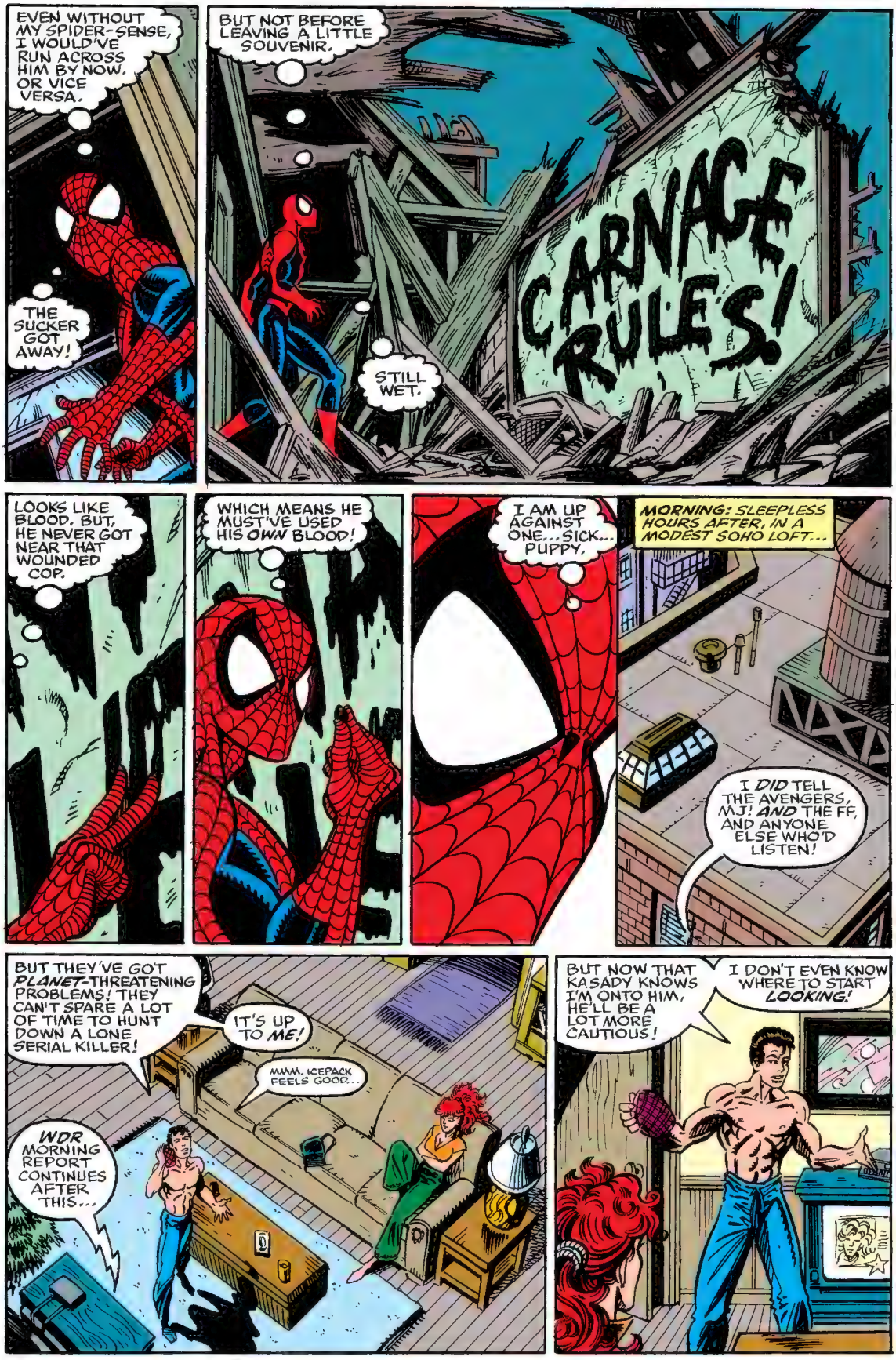

WHAMPH
W...WOOZY! GOTTA GET HIM TALKING! B-BUY TIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD!
NOT B-BAD, FOR A TWO-BIT *VENOM*!
BROCK?! *THAT* WIMP? HE'S THROUGH! EVEN LEFT HIS "OTHER" WITH ME WHEN HE SPLIT!
NOW *WE'RE* GONNA SHOW THE WORLD THE TRUTH! AN' THE TRUTH IS--
--CARNAGE!
I DON'T GET IT! EDDIE STILL HAS THE ALIEN WITH *HIM* ON THAT ISLAND!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
KRRITCH
"AND MORE IMPORTANTLY--
"-- HOW DO I *SURVIVE* IT?"

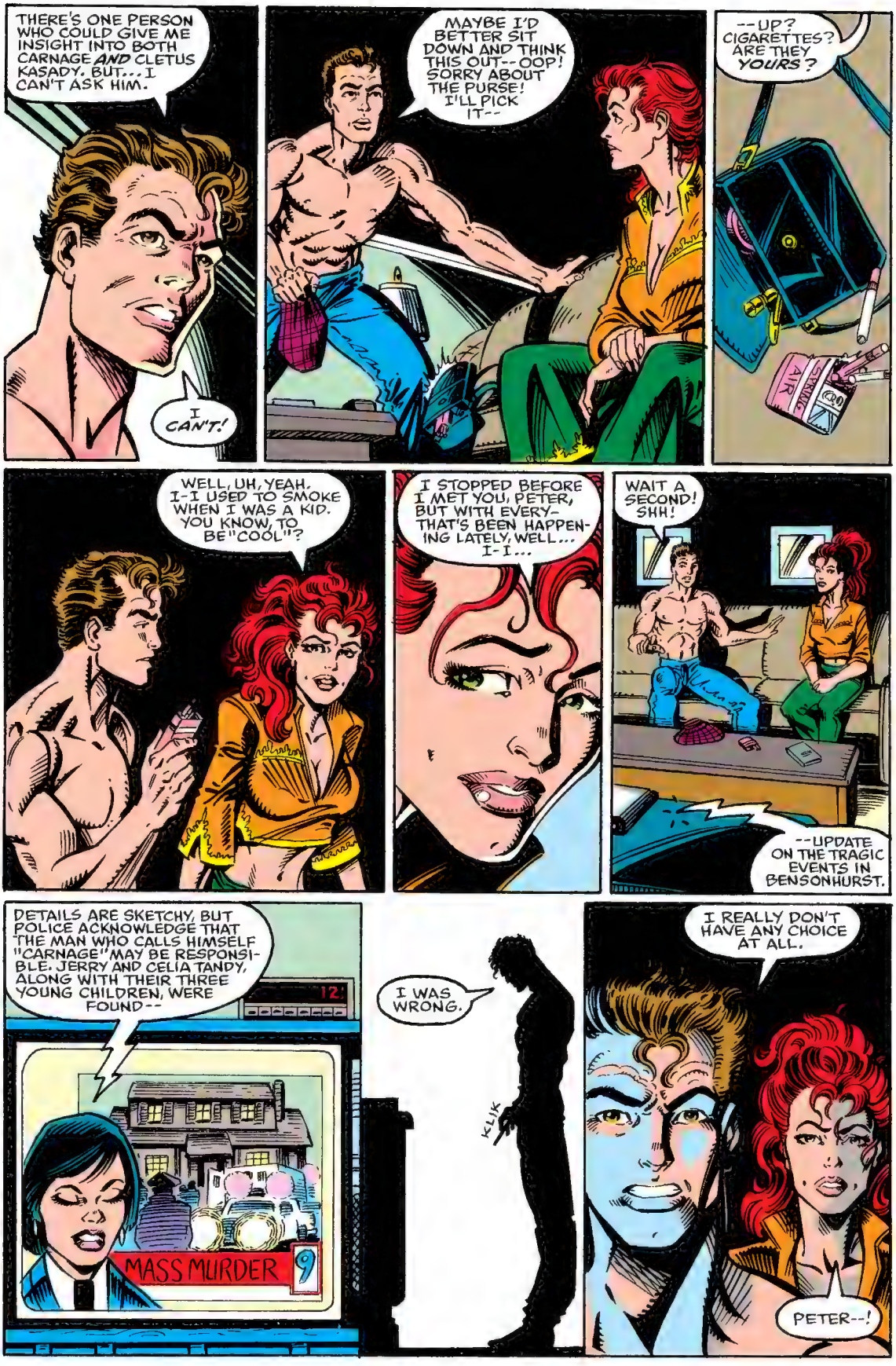

GEE, WEBSTER, I DUNNO WHY EDDIE RAGGED ON YA SO MUCH!
I THINK YOU'RE KINDA FUN!
I MEAN, I COULD REALLY GET INTO REUNION BATTLES, GRUDGE BOUTS!
Y'KNOW THE KINDA STUFF THE TABLOIDS DIG!
TOO BAD I GOTTA CUT THIS SHORT--
--BY KILLIN' YA NOW!
SHHHONK
THAT'S A NEW TRICK!
BUT MAYBE I CAN GRAB THE AXE AND USE IT AGAINST--
--HIM? TURNING TO DUST!
GUESS THE COSTUME'S SUBSTANCE CAN'T MAINTAIN MOLECULAR INTEGRITY WHEN SEPARATED FROM THE MAIN BODY!
AND UNLESS I WANT MY HEAD SEPARATED FROM MY OWN BODY, I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON-- HNH?

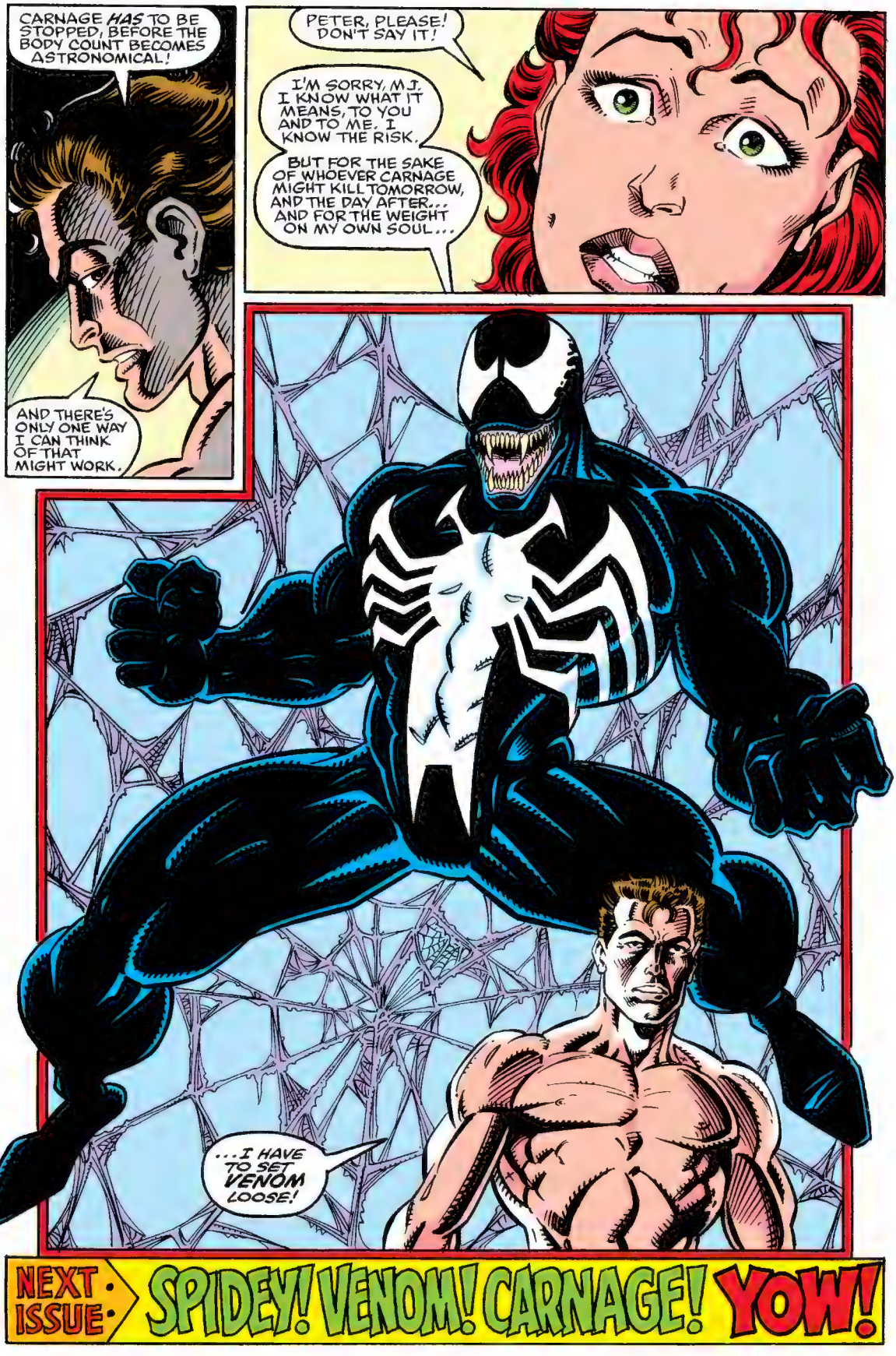

WHERE'D HE GO?
COULDN'T BE HIDING! MY SPIDER-SENSE WOULD WARN ME IF HE WAS STILL AROUND!
WOULDN'T IT...?
WHMGF
SPLIKRATCH
LOST DOGS, U.F.O. SIGHTINGS, NOISE COMPLAINTS!
HOW COME THEY ALL HAPPEN ON MY SHIFT!
RELAX, RAMONE. IT'S PROB'LY JUST SOME PUNKS PARTYIN'.
NO BIG DEAL.
VENOM DOESN'T TRIGGER MY SPIDER-SENSE AND APPARENTLY CARNAGE DOESN'T EITHER! THEY'RE SIMILAR, BUT DIFFERENT!
AND I DON'T KNOW THIS GUY'S RULES!


EXCEPT, OBVIOUSLY, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE TWISTED PRETENSE OF *FAIR PLAY* THAT EDDIE HAS!
AWRIGHT, FREE...EZE?
WH-WHAT THE DEVIL IS *THAT*?
MORE COMPANY? SORRY, FELLAS.
RESERVATIONS ONLY!
PT
PT
PT
PT
≥HNG≤
RAMONE!
THAT'S--
--ENOUGH!
BRAMISH!


OFFICER DOWN! ST. ESTES RUINS! GET MEDICS HERE FAST!
HOW IS HE?
BARELY BREATHIN'!
MAYBE I CAN--
--HUH? SPIDER-SENSE! CARNAGE TRYING TO NAIL US BOTH WITH A HURLED OBJECT! HAVE TO PUSH THAT COP OUT OF THE--
TOKK
"--WAY."
YOU OKAY, WEBSLINGER?
NO.
BUT I'M A LOT BETTER THAN CARNAGE IS GONNA BE!
HOWEVER, SOME-TIME LATER...
LOWER LEVELS CLEAR! I SEARCHED EVERY NOOK AND CRATER!


EVEN WITHOUT MY SPIDER-SENSE, I WOULD'VE RUN ACROSS HIM BY NOW, OR VICE VERSA.
THE SUCKER GOT AWAY!
BUT NOT BEFORE LEAVING A LITTLE SOUVENIR.
STILL WET.
CARNAGE RULES!
LOOKS LIKE BLOOD, BUT, HE NEVER GOT NEAR THAT WOUNDED COP.
WHICH MEANS HE MUST'VE USED HIS OWN BLOOD!
I AM UP AGAINST ONE... SICK... PUPPY.
MORNING: SLEEPLESS HOURS AFTER, IN A MODEST SOHO LOFT...
I DID TELL THE AVENGERS, M.J! AND THE FF, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO'D LISTEN!
BUT THEY'VE GOT PLANET-THREATENING PROBLEMS! THEY CAN'T SPARE A LOT OF TIME TO HUNT DOWN A LONE SERIAL KILLER!
IT'S UP TO ME!
MMM. ICEPACK FEELS GOOD...
WDR MORNING REPORT CONTINUES AFTER THIS...
BUT NOW THAT KASADY KNOWS I'M ONTO HIM, HE'LL BE A LOT MORE CAUTIOUS!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START LOOKING!


THERE'S ONE PERSON WHO COULD GIVE ME INSIGHT INTO BOTH CARNAGE AND CLETUS KASADY. BUT... I CAN'T ASK HIM.
I CAN'T!
MAYBE I'D BETTER SIT DOWN AND THINK THIS OUT--OOP! SORRY ABOUT THE PURSE! I'LL PICK IT--
--UP? CIGARETTES? ARE THEY YOURS?
WELL, UH, YEAH. I-I USED TO SMOKE WHEN I WAS A KID. YOU KNOW, TO BE "COOL"?
I STOPPED BEFORE I MET YOU, PETER, BUT WITH EVERY-THAT'S BEEN HAPPEN-ING LATELY, WELL... I-I...
WAIT A SECOND! SHH!
--UPDATE ON THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN BENSONHURST.
DETAILS ARE SKETCHY, BUT POLICE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF "CARNAGE" MAY BE RESPONSI-BLE. JERRY AND CELIA TANDY, ALONG WITH THEIR THREE YOUNG CHILDREN, WERE FOUND--
MASS MURDER 9
I WAS WRONG.
KLIK
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE AT ALL.
PETER--!


CARNAGE HAS TO BE STOPPED, BEFORE THE BODY COUNT BECOMES ASTRONOMICAL!
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN THINK OF THAT MIGHT WORK.
PETER, PLEASE! DON'T SAY IT!
I'M SORRY, M.J. I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, TO YOU AND TO ME. I KNOW THE RISK.
BUT FOR THE SAKE OF WHOEVER CARNAGE MIGHT KILL TOMORROW, AND THE DAY AFTER... AND FOR THE WEIGHT ON MY OWN SOUL...
...I HAVE TO SET VENOM LOOSE!
NEXT ISSUE: SPIDEY! VENOM! CARNAGE! YOW!

MARVEL COMICS
CARNAGE AND VENOM VS.
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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CARNAGE* PART TWO
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BAGLEY • Eimberlin '91
*THE VILLAIN SO AWESOME WE HAD TO PUT HIS NAME ON THE COVER TWICE!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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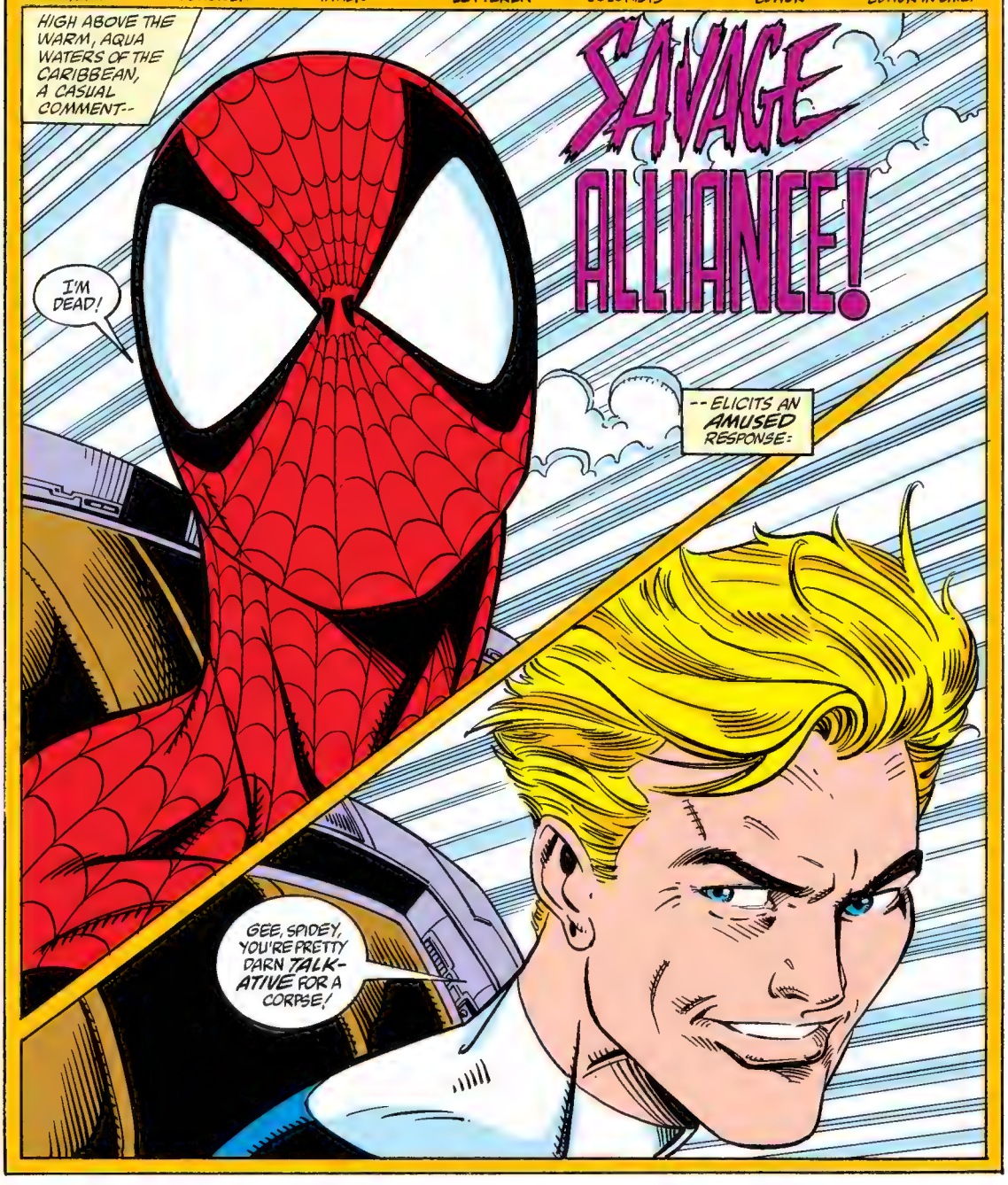
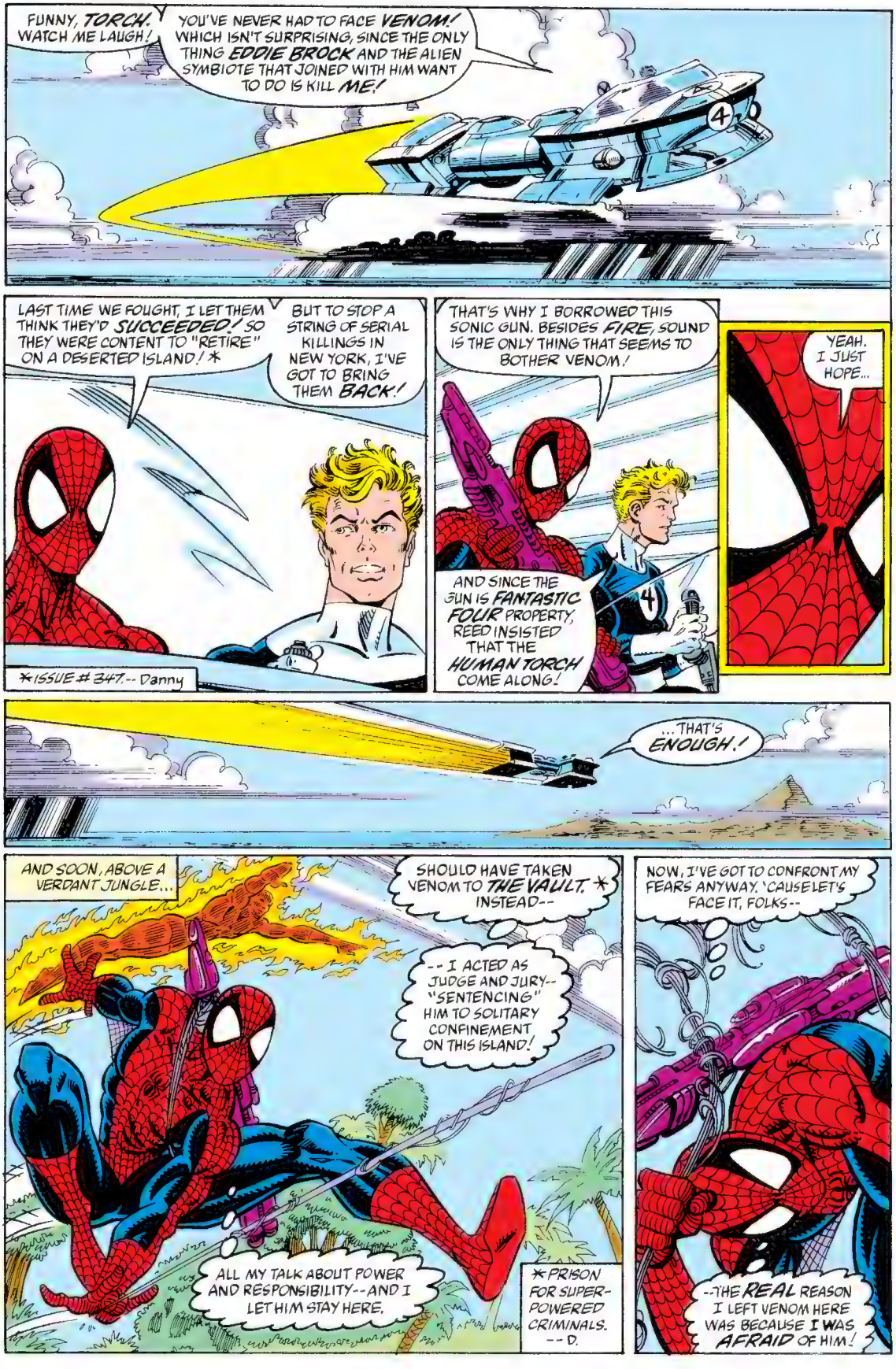
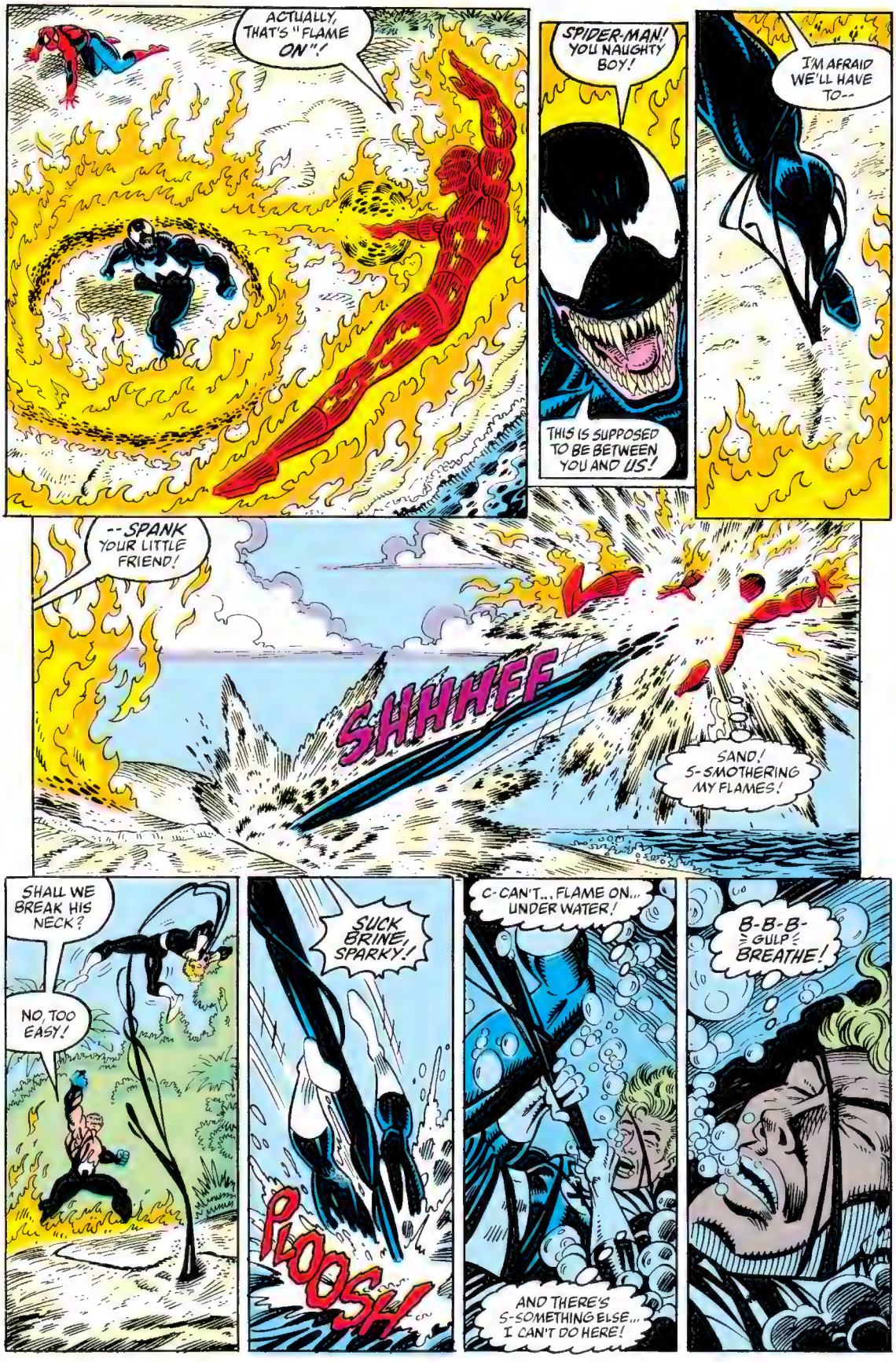
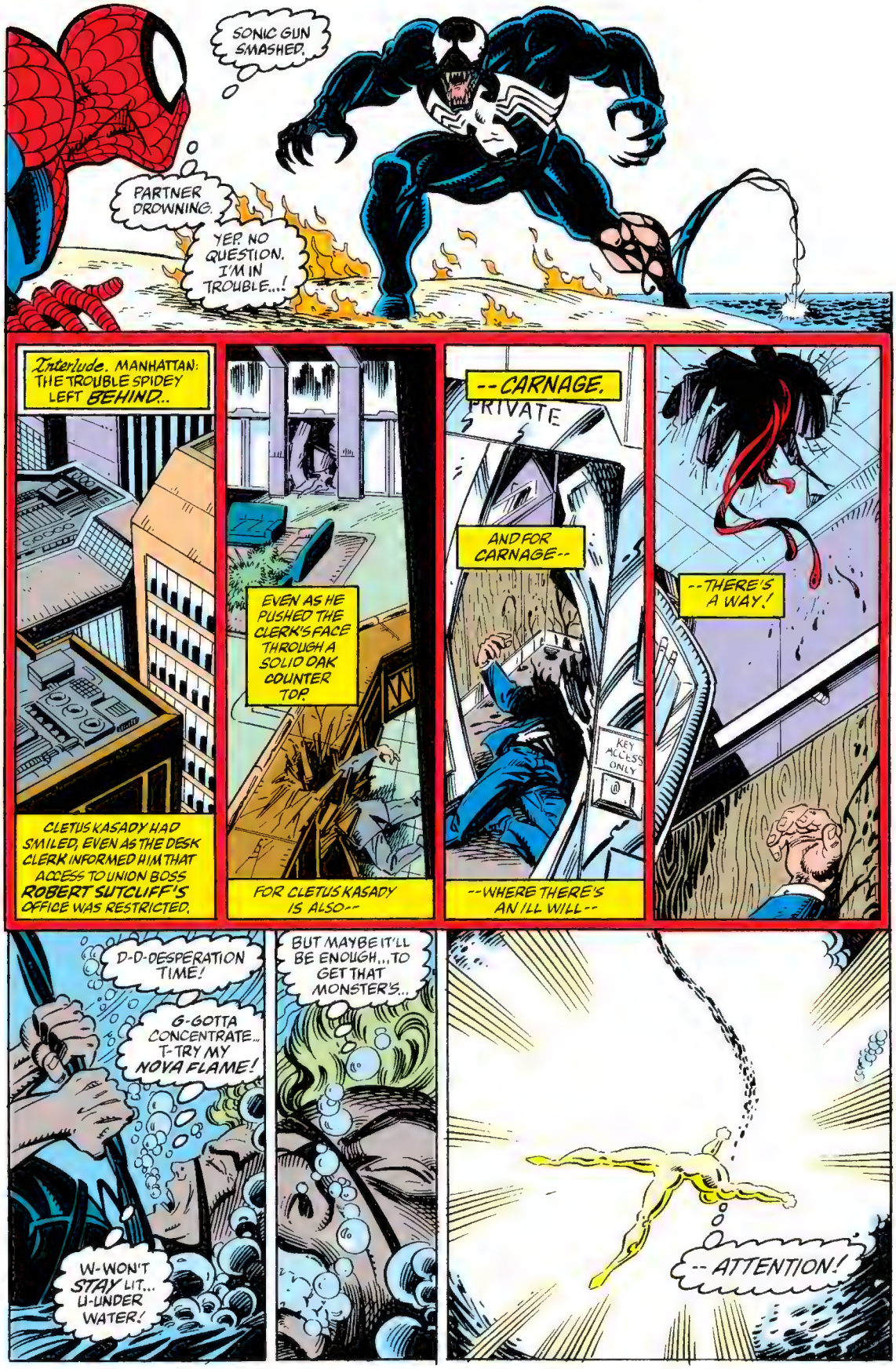

HIGH ABOVE THE WARM, AQUA WATERS OF THE CARIBBEAN, A CASUAL COMMENT--
SAVAGE ALLIANCE!
I'M DEAD!
--ELICITS AN AMUSED RESPONSE:
GEE, SPIDEY, YOU'RE PRETTY DARN TALK-ATIVE FOR A CORPSE!

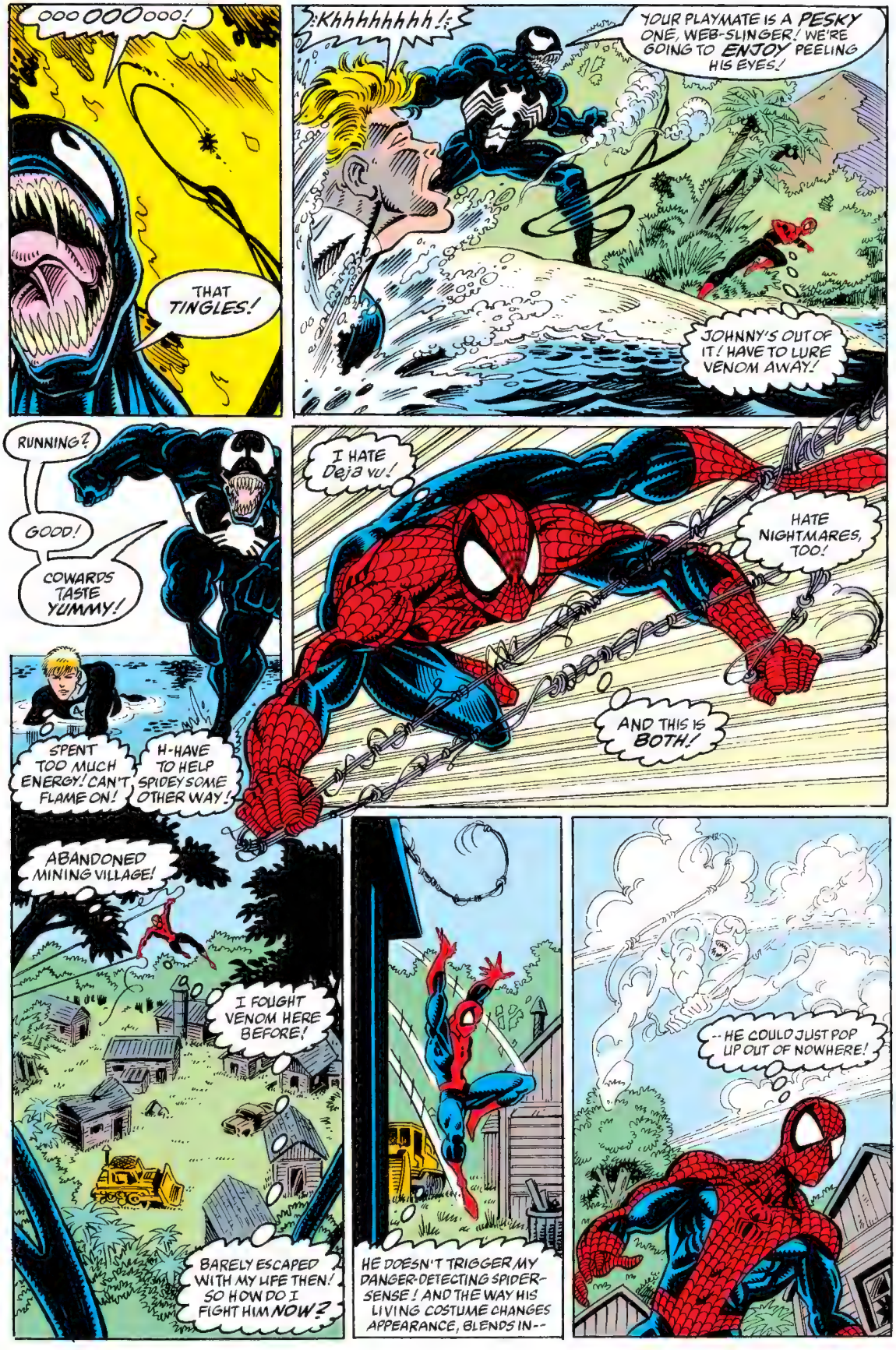

FUNNY, TORCH. WATCH ME LAUGH!
YOU'VE NEVER HAD TO FACE VENOM! WHICH ISN'T SURPRISING, SINCE THE ONLY THING EDDIE BROCK AND THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT JOINED WITH HIM WANT TO DO IS KILL ME!
LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, I LET THEM THINK THEY'D SUCCEEDED! SO THEY WERE CONTENT TO "RETIRE" ON A DESERTED ISLAND! *
BUT TO STOP A STRING OF SERIAL KILLINGS IN NEW YORK, I'VE GOT TO BRING THEM BACK!
*ISSUE # 347.-- Danny
THAT'S WHY I BORROWED THIS SONIC GUN. BESIDES FIRE, SOUND IS THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMS TO BOTHER VENOM!
AND SINCE THE GUN IS FANTASTIC FOUR PROPERTY, REED INSISTED THAT THE HUMAN TORCH COME ALONG!
YEAH. I JUST HOPE...
...THAT'S ENOUGH!
AND SOON, ABOVE A VERDANT JUNGLE...
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN VENOM TO THE VAULT. * INSTEAD--
-- I ACTED AS JUDGE AND JURY-- "SENTENCING" HIM TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON THIS ISLAND!
ALL MY TALK ABOUT POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY--AND I LET HIM STAY HERE.
* PRISON FOR SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS. -- D.
NOW, I'VE GOT TO CONFRONT MY FEARS ANYWAY, 'CAUSE LET'S FACE IT, FOLKS--
--THE REAL REASON I LEFT VENOM HERE WAS BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF HIM!

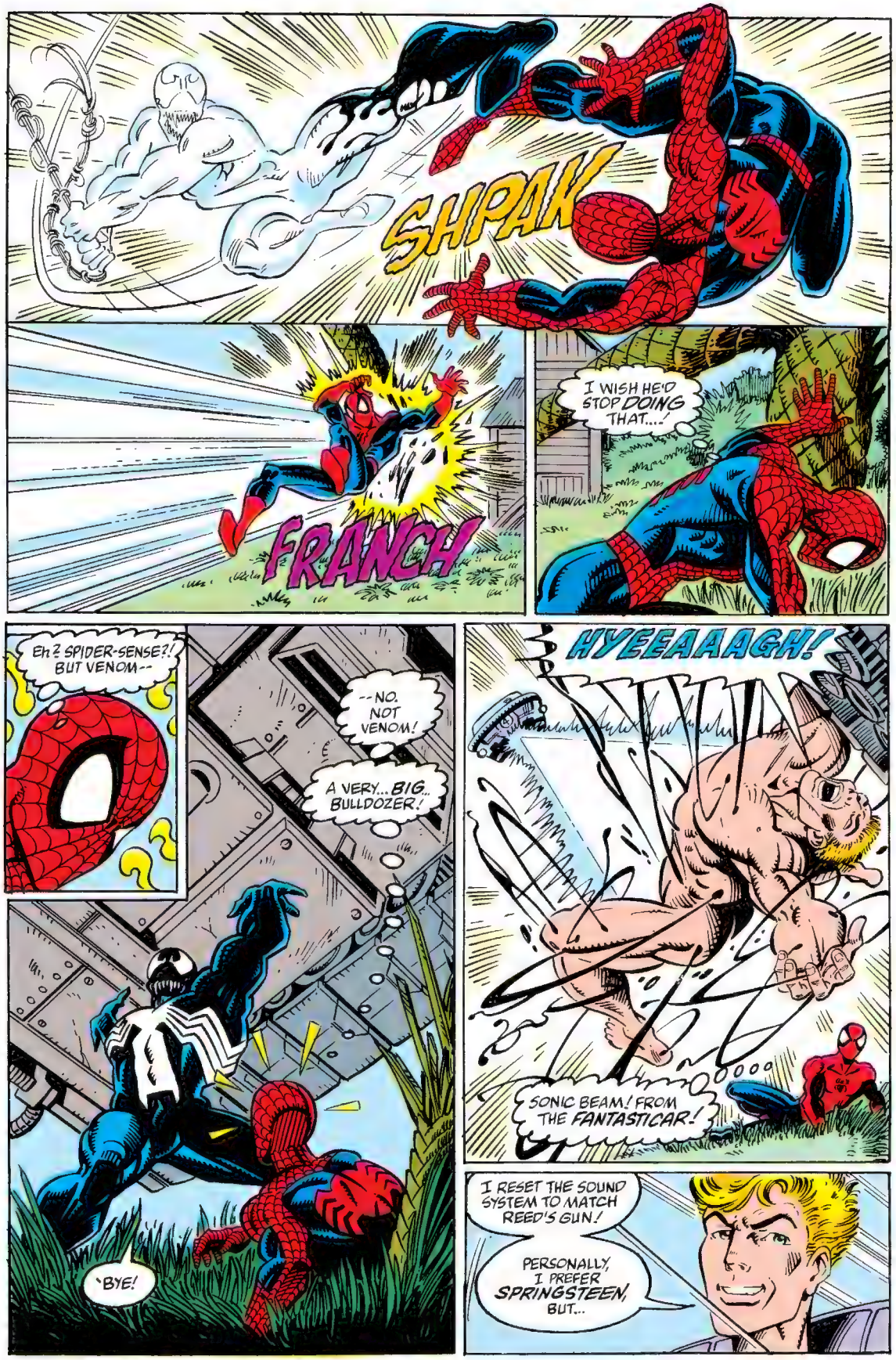
SPIDEY'S TOTALLY STRESSED! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THIS TENSE!
AND I THINK I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHY!
THERE! ON THE BEACH!
THANKS FOR ACTING AS SPOTTER, JOHNNY. BUT NOW I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BACK OFF.
THIS IS PERSONAL.
WHAT? OH, YES. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
EVERY DAY IS BEAUTIFUL, SINCE WE RID OURSELVES OF THAT DESPICABLE--
--SPIDER-MAN!
EDDIE?
NO!
JUST BE COOL, NOW!
I--IT CAN'T BE!
YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR!
SPIDER-MAN IS DEAD!

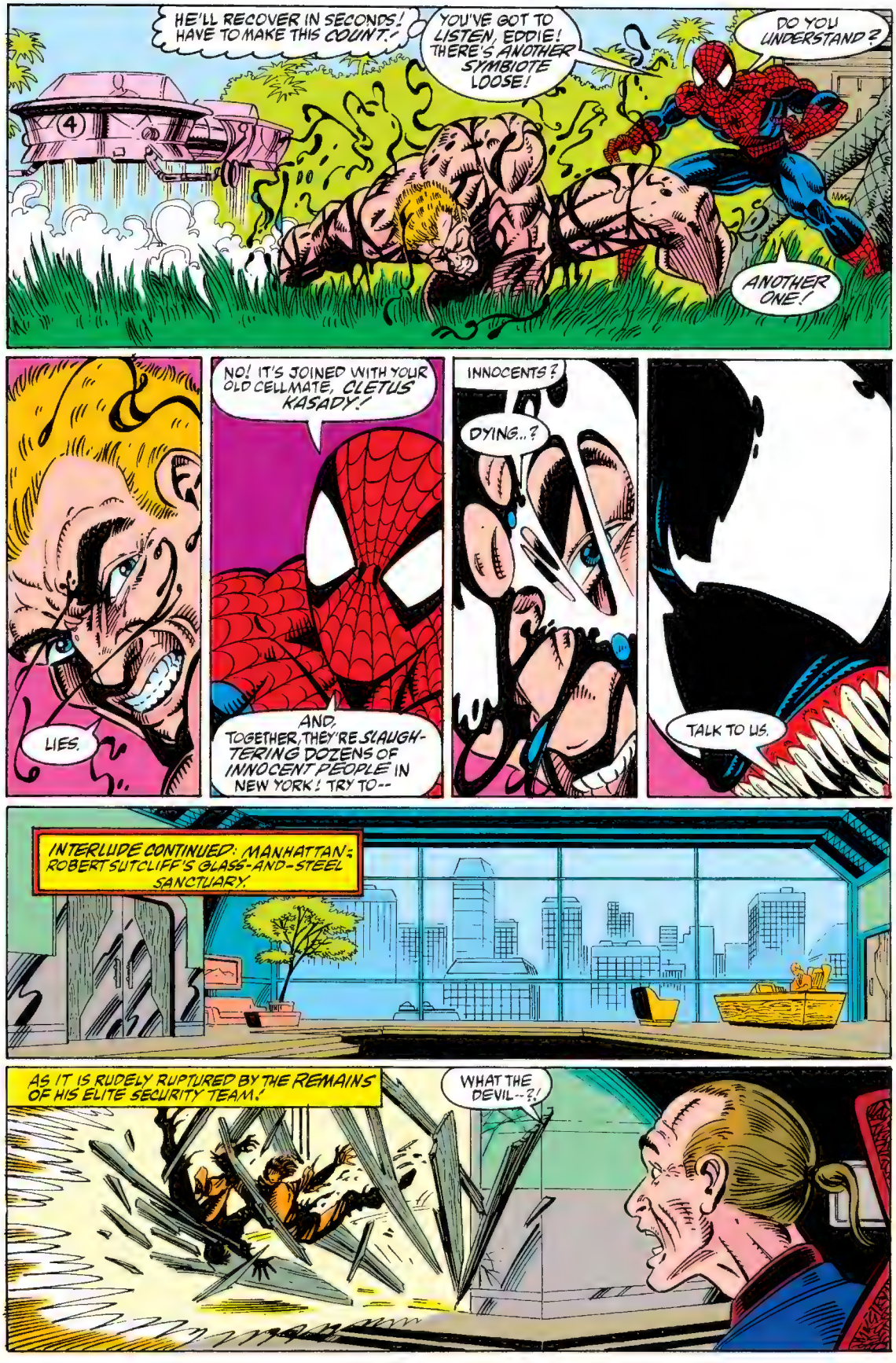
WE...MADE HIM...DEAD!
NO TRICKS, EDDIE. NOT THIS TIME.
IT'S ME.
WE HAVE TO TALK.
IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU CAN'T BE YOU!
WE WON'T ALLOW IT!
NUTS! THERE'S NEVER AN EASY WAY...!
YAAARGH!!
TH-THE PAIN! RIPPING US APART!
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
THIS TIME WE'LL MAKE SURE!
SKRASH!
UNF!
THIS TIME WE'LL EAT YOUR BRAIN AND YOUR SPINE!
EASE OFF, GRUESOME!
WHA--FLAME?!

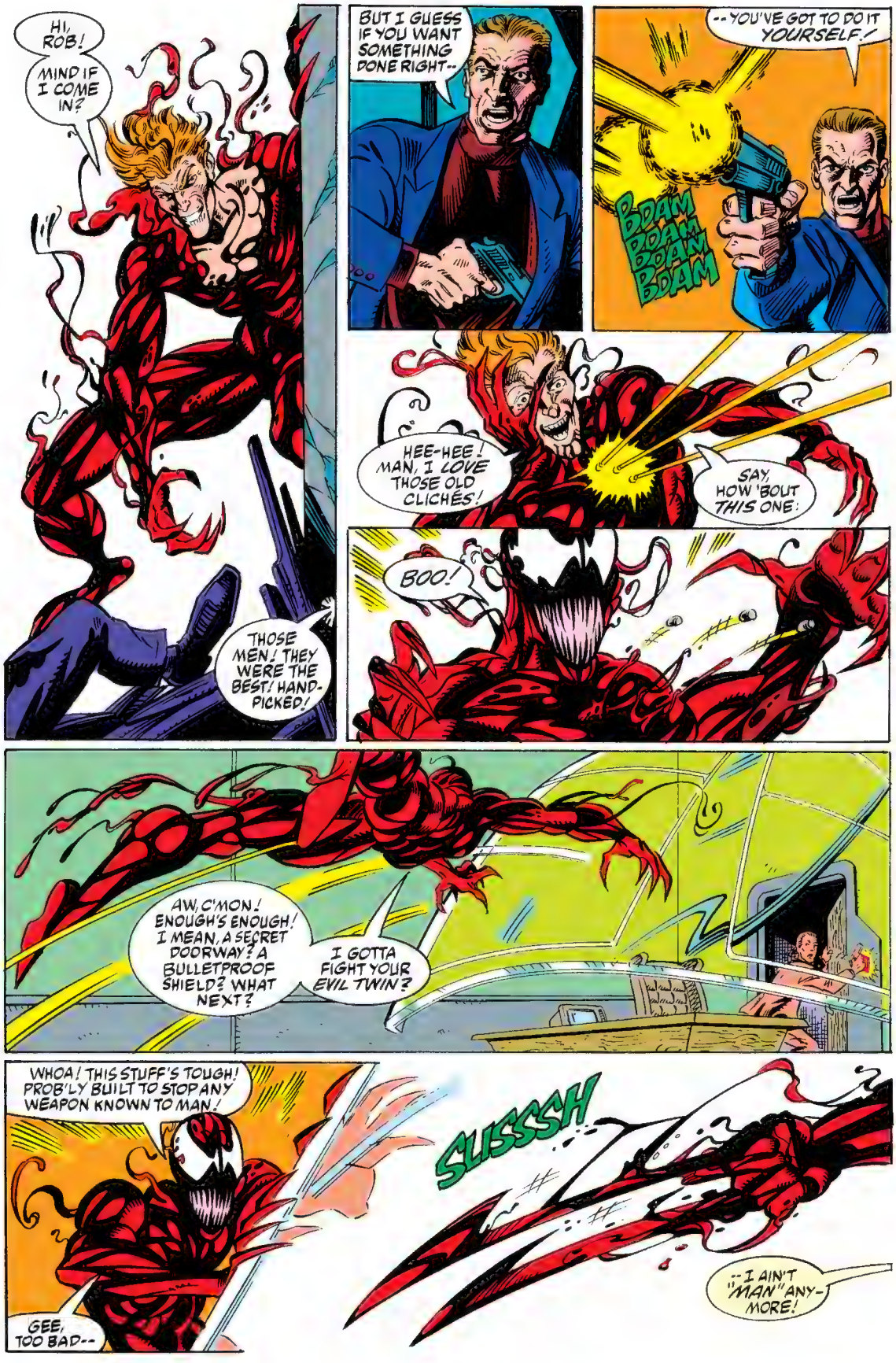

ACTUALLY, THAT'S "FLAME ON"!
SPIDER-MAN! YOU NAUGHTY BOY!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE BETWEEN YOU AND US!
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO--
--SPANK YOUR LITTLE FRIEND!
SHHHFF
SAND! S-SMOTHERING MY FLAMES!
SHALL WE BREAK HIS NECK?
NO, TOO EASY!
SUCK BRINE, SPARKY!
PLOOSH!
C-CAN'T... FLAME ON... UNDER WATER!
AND THERE'S S-SOMETHING ELSE... I CAN'T DO HERE!
B-B-B- GULP BREATHE!

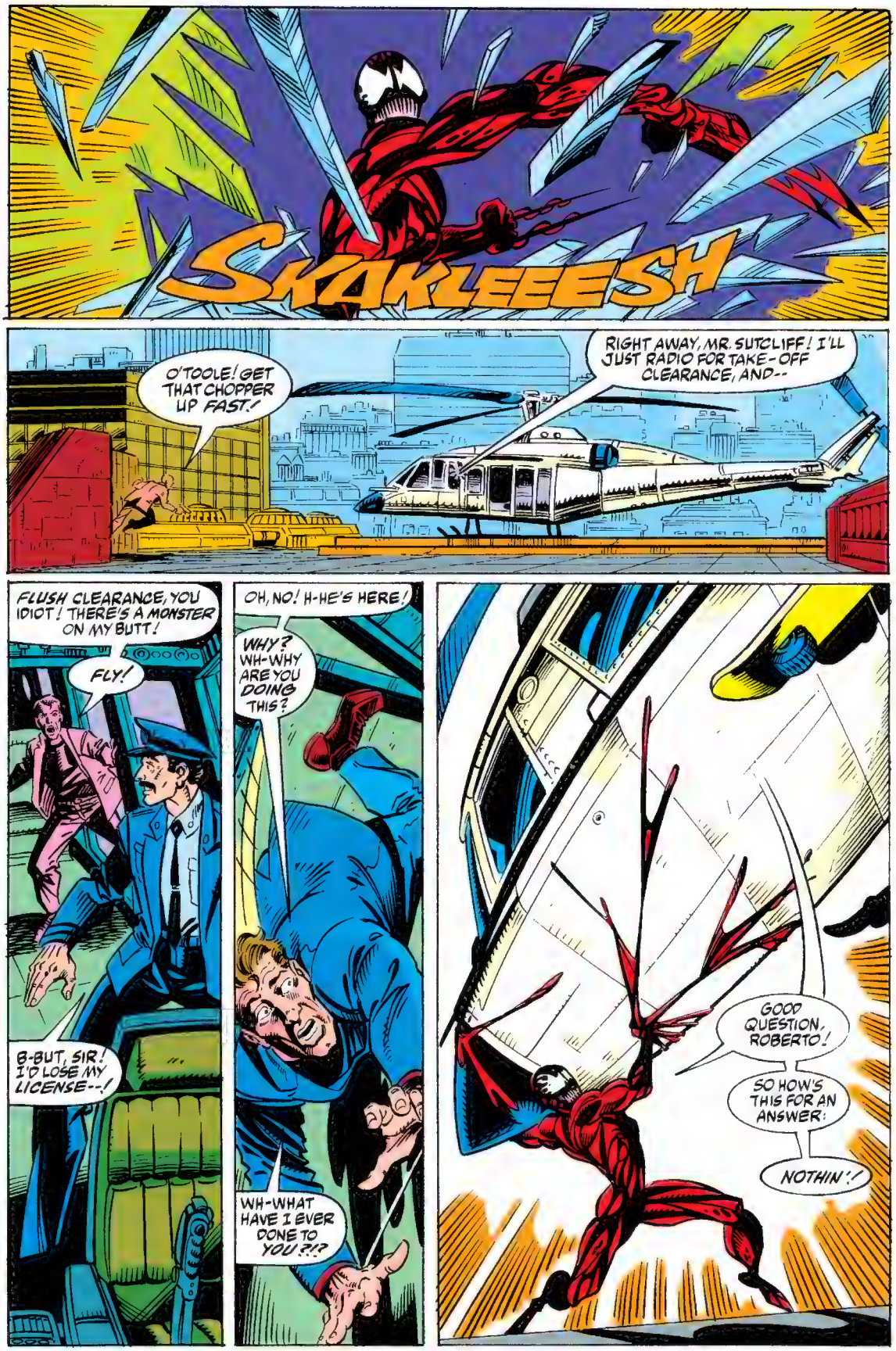

SONIC GUN SMASHED.
PARTNER DROWNING.
YEP. NO QUESTION. I'M IN TROUBLE...!
Interlude. MANHATTAN: THE TROUBLE SPIDEY LEFT BEHIND...
CLETUS KASADY HAD SMILED, EVEN AS THE DESK CLERK INFORMED HIM THAT ACCESS TO UNION BOSS ROBERT SUTCLIFF'S OFFICE WAS RESTRICTED.
EVEN AS HE PUSHED THE CLERK'S FACE THROUGH A SOLID OAK COUNTER TOP.
FOR CLETUS KASADY IS ALSO--
--CARNAGE.
PRIVATE
AND FOR CARNAGE--
KEY ACCESS ONLY
--WHERE THERE'S AN ILL WILL--
--THERE'S A WAY.
D-D-DESPERATION TIME!
G-GOTTA CONCENTRATE... T-TRY MY NOVA FLAME!
W-WON'T STAY LIT... U-UNDER WATER!
BUT MAYBE IT'LL BE ENOUGH... TO GET THAT MONSTER'S...
-- ATTENTION!


OOO OOO OOO!
THAT TINGLES!
:Khhhhhhhh!:
YOUR PLAYMATE IS A PESKY ONE, WEB-SLINGER! WE'RE GOING TO ENJOY PEELING HIS EYES!
JOHNNY'S OUT OF IT! HAVE TO LURE VENOM AWAY!
RUNNING?
GOOD!
COWARDS TASTE YUMMY!
I HATE Deja vu!
HATE NIGHTMARES, TOO!
AND THIS IS BOTH!
SPENT TOO MUCH ENERGY! CAN'T FLAME ON!
H-HAVE TO HELP SPIDEY SOME OTHER WAY!
ABANDONED MINING VILLAGE!
I FOUGHT VENOM HERE BEFORE!
BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE THEN! SO HOW DO I FIGHT HIM NOW?
HE DOESN'T TRIGGER MY DANGER-DETECTING SPIDER-SENSE! AND THE WAY HIS LIVING COSTUME CHANGES APPEARANCE, BLENDS IN--
-- HE COULD JUST POP UP OUT OF NOWHERE!

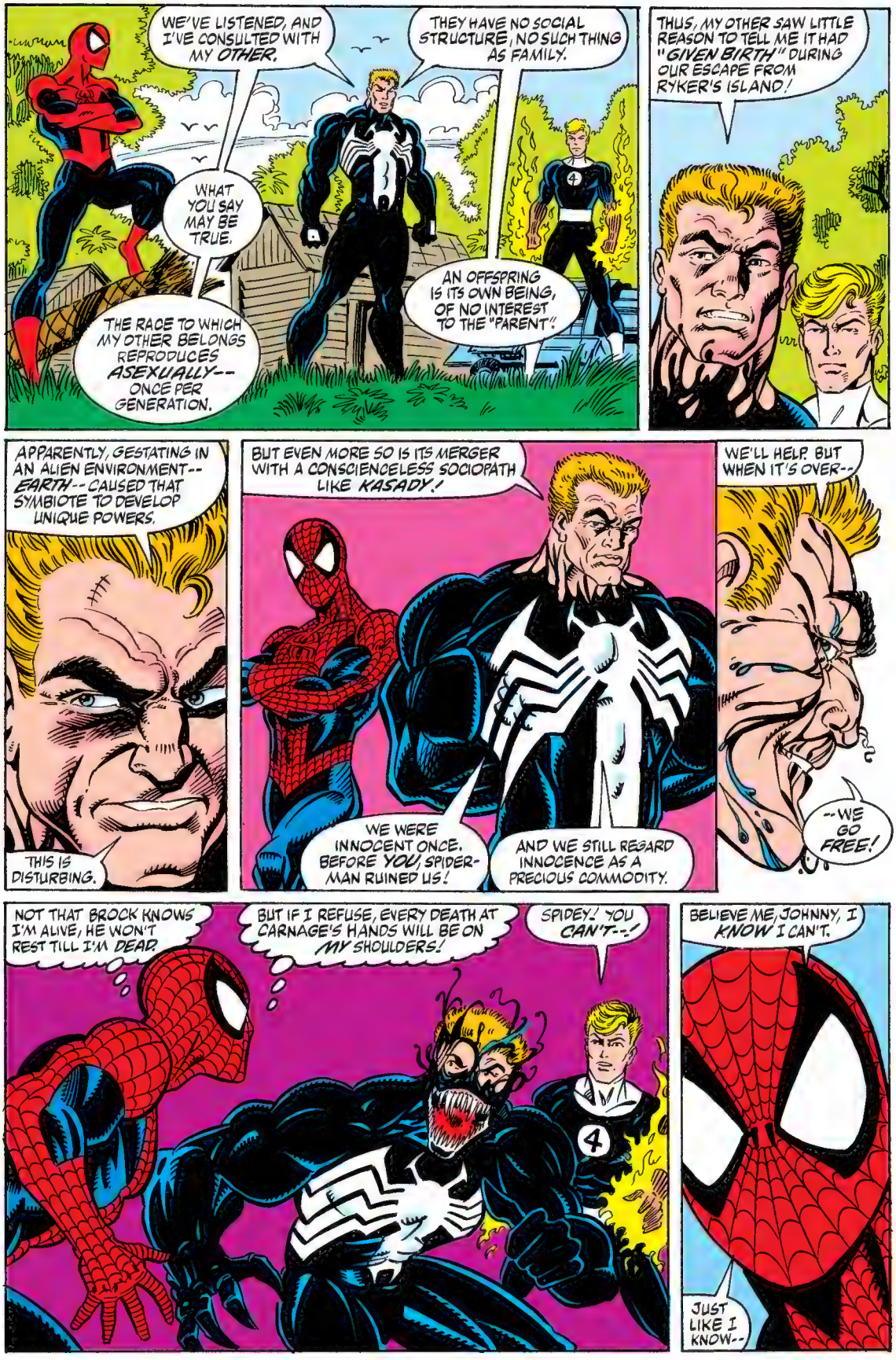

SHPAK
FRANCH
I WISH HE'D STOP DOING THAT...!
Eh? SPIDER-SENSE?! BUT VENOM--
--NO. NOT VENOM!
A VERY...BIG... BULLDOZER!
'BYE!
HYEEAAAGH!
SONIC BEAM! FROM THE FANTASTICAR!
I RESET THE SOUND SYSTEM TO MATCH REED'S GUN!
PERSONALLY, I PREFER SPRINGSTEEN, BUT...

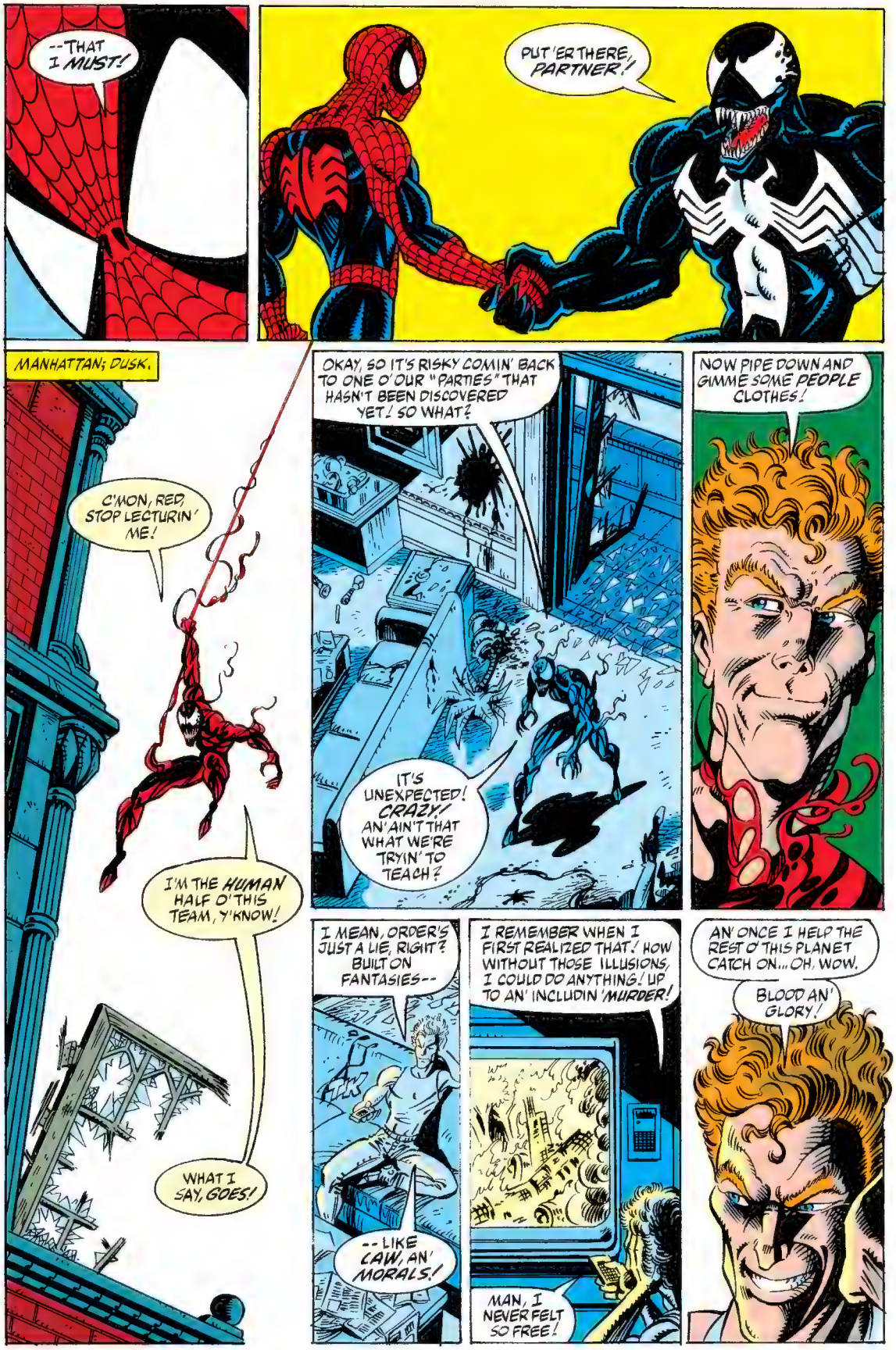

HE'LL RECOVER IN SECONDS! I HAVE TO MAKE THIS COUNT!
YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN, EDDIE! THERE'S ANOTHER SYMBIOTE LOOSE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
ANOTHER ONE!
LIES.
NO! IT'S JOINED WITH YOUR OLD CELLMATE, CLETUS KASADY!
AND, TOGETHER, THEY'RE SLAUGHTERING DOZENS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN NEW YORK! TRY TO--
INNOCENTS?
DYING...?
TALK TO US.
INTERLUDE CONTINUED: MANHATTAN: ROBERT SUTCLIFF'S GLASS-AND-STEEL SANCTUARY.
AS IT IS RUDELY RUPTURED BY THE REMAINS OF HIS ELITE SECURITY TEAM!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!


HI, ROB! MIND IF I COME IN?
THOSE MEN! THEY WERE THE BEST! HAND-PICKED!
BUT I GUESS IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT--
--YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT YOURSELF!
BDAM BDAM BDAM BDAM
HEE-HEE! MAN, I LOVE THOSE OLD CLICHÉS!
SAY, HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE:
BOO!
AW, C'MON! ENOUGH'S ENOUGH! I MEAN, A SECRET DOORWAY? A BULLETPROOF SHIELD? WHAT NEXT?
I GOTTA FIGHT YOUR EVIL TWIN?
WHOA! THIS STUFF'S TOUGH! PROB'LY BUILT TO STOP ANY WEAPON KNOWN TO MAN!
SLISSSH
--I AIN'T "MAN" ANY-MORE!
GEE, TOO BAD--


SKAKLEEESH
O'TOOLE! GET THAT CHOPPER UP FAST!
RIGHT AWAY, MR. SUTCLIFF! I'LL JUST RADIO FOR TAKE-OFF CLEARANCE, AND--
FLUSH CLEARANCE, YOU IDIOT! THERE'S A MONSTER ON MY BUTT!
FLY!
B-BUT, SIR! I'D LOSE MY LICENSE--!
OH, NO! H-HE'S HERE!
WHY? WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WH-WHAT HAVE I EVER DONE TO YOU?!?
GOOD QUESTION, ROBERTO!
SO HOW'S THIS FOR AN ANSWER:
NOTHIN'!

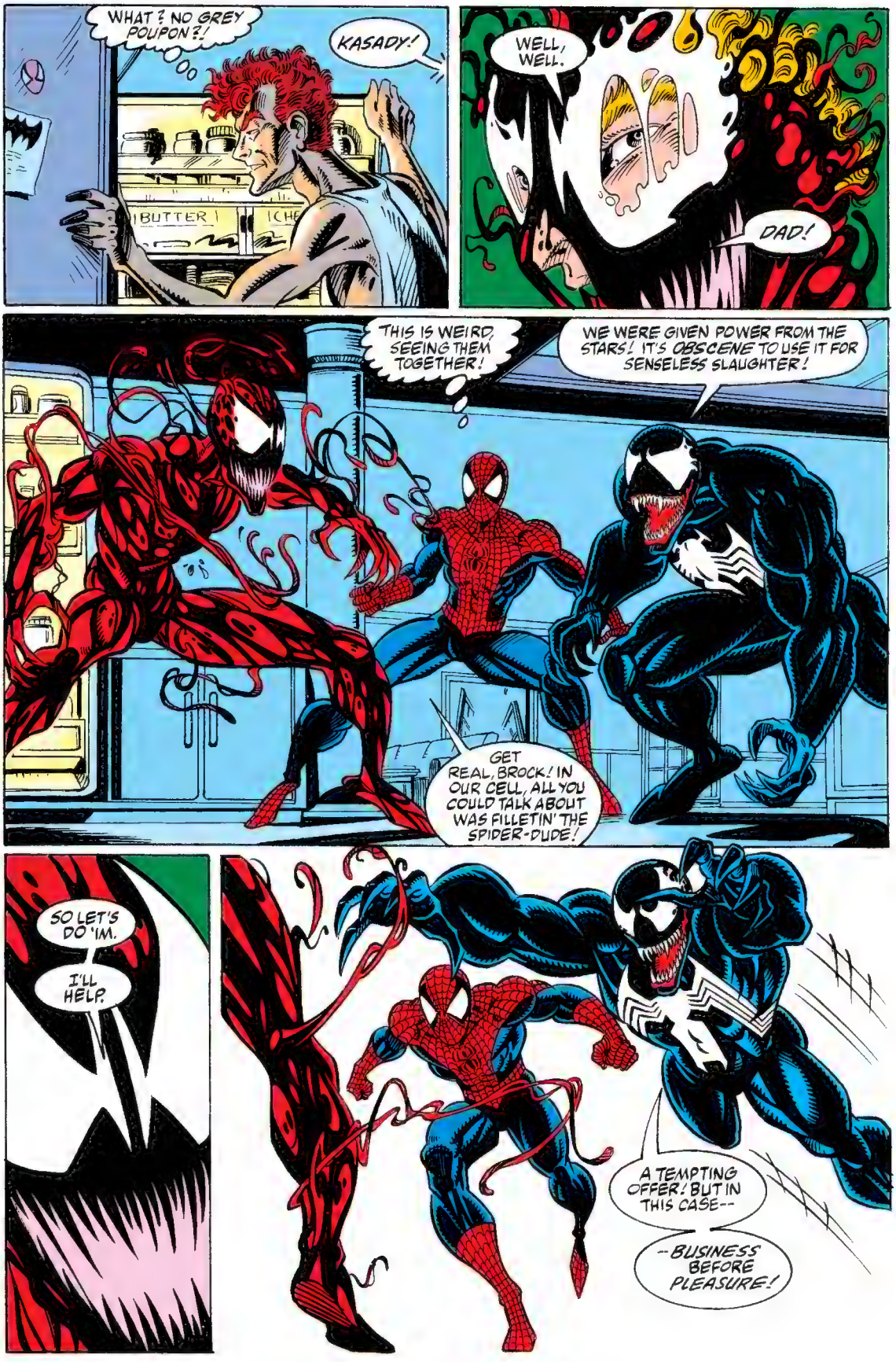
NOW GET OUTTA HERE, YA BIG LUG!
OUCH!
BET THAT HURT!
BUT I FEEL GREAT! SOON, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SEE THAT THE WAY TO FREEDOM IS CHAOS!
SHLIP
AND THE WAY TO CHAOS IS--
--CARNAGE!
KRA-CHA-BLANG


WE'VE LISTENED, AND I'VE CONSULTED WITH MY OTHER.
THEY HAVE NO SOCIAL STRUCTURE, NO SUCH THING AS FAMILY.
WHAT YOU SAY MAY BE TRUE.
THE RACE TO WHICH MY OTHER BELONGS REPRODUCES ASEXUALLY-- ONCE PER GENERATION.
AN OFFSPRING IS ITS OWN BEING, OF NO INTEREST TO THE "PARENT".
THUS, MY OTHER SAW LITTLE REASON TO TELL ME IT HAD "GIVEN BIRTH" DURING OUR ESCAPE FROM RYKER'S ISLAND!
APPARENTLY, GESTATING IN AN ALIEN ENVIRONMENT-- EARTH-- CAUSED THAT SYMBIOTE TO DEVELOP UNIQUE POWERS.
THIS IS DISTURBING.
BUT EVEN MORE SO IS ITS MERGER WITH A CONSCIENCELESS SOCIOPATH LIKE KASADY!
WE WERE INNOCENT ONCE. BEFORE YOU, SPIDER-MAN RUINED US!
AND WE STILL REGARD INNOCENCE AS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY.
WE'LL HELP. BUT WHEN IT'S OVER--
--WE GO FREE!
NOT THAT BROCK KNOWS I'M ALIVE, HE WON'T REST TILL I'M DEAD.
BUT IF I REFUSE, EVERY DEATH AT CARNAGE'S HANDS WILL BE ON MY SHOULDERS!
SPIDEY! YOU CAN'T--!
BELIEVE ME, JOHNNY, I KNOW I CAN'T.
JUST LIKE I KNOW--


--THAT I MUST!
PUT 'ER THERE, PARTNER!
MANHATTAN; DUSK.
C'MON, RED, STOP LECTURIN' ME!
I'M THE HUMAN HALF O' THIS TEAM, Y'KNOW!
WHAT I SAY, GOES!
OKAY, SO IT'S RISKY COMIN' BACK TO ONE O' OUR "PARTIES" THAT HASN'T BEEN DISCOVERED YET! SO WHAT?
IT'S UNEXPECTED! CRAZY! AN' AIN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE TRYIN' TO TEACH?
NOW PIPE DOWN AND GIMME SOME PEOPLE CLOTHES!
I MEAN, ORDER'S JUST A LIE, RIGHT? BUILT ON FANTASIES--
--LIKE LAW, AN' MORALS!
I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST REALIZED THAT! HOW WITHOUT THOSE ILLUSIONS, I COULD DO ANYTHING! UP TO AN' INCLUDIN' MURDER!
MAN, I NEVER FELT SO FREE!
AN' ONCE I HELP THE REST O' THIS PLANET CATCH ON... OH, WOW.
BLOOD AN' GLORY!

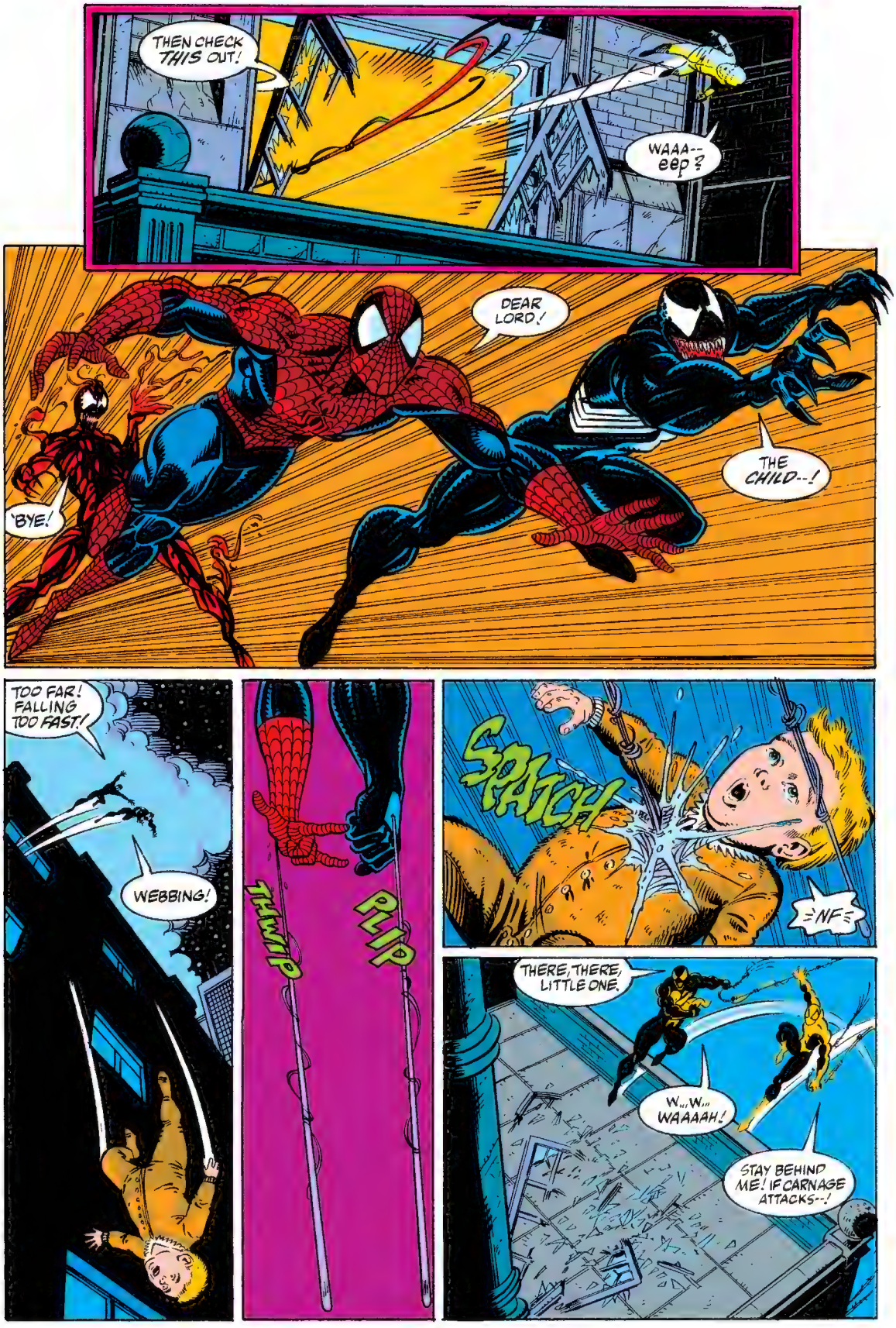
HUH? AW, MAN, THAT MAKES MY GUT HEAVE! SHOWIN' SOME FLATFOOT GETTIN' A MEDAL?!
WHY DON'TCHA SHOW 'IM TAKIN' HIS WEEKLY BRIBES!
T.V.! NEWS-PAPERS! ALWAYS FEEDIN' PEOPLE THE LIE!
SHOUTIN' HOW GOOD'S GOTTA TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!
AN' YOU'RE TH' WORST O' THE LOT! MAYBE I SHOULD FEED YOU A DOSE O' TRUTH!
YEAH!
BUT FIRST--
--I THINK I'LL MAKE A SANDWICH!
WHEN I WAS A REPORTER FOR THE DAILY GLOBE--
--I WROTE A SUNDAY FEATURE ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
YOU DO A MARVELOUS JOB PROTECTING INNOCENTS.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
SPIDEY, THIS GUY HAS A SERIOUS SCHIZOPHRENIA PROBLEM! YOU SURE YOU WANT HIM RUNNING LOOSE?
HE ONLY KILLS TO GET TO ME. IF I'M ALREADY AROUND, MAYBE THERE WON'T BE MUCH DANGER.
YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
RIGHT NOW... I HAVE TO.

SOON...
WISH I COULD STAY, SPIDEY! BUT I'M GETTING AN EMERGENCY SIGNAL FROM THE FF! I HAVE TO CHECK IN!
IF YOU NEED US, GIVE A YELL!
ALL RIGHT, VENOM, LET'S START SEARCHING FOR KASADY!
NO NEED! MY OTHER AND HIS ARE OF A SPECIES!
A SPECIES THAT CAN SENSE ITS OFFSPRING!
TWIP
FOLLOW ME!
COUNT ON IT!


WHAT? NO GREY POUPON?!
KASADY!
BUTTER
WELL, WELL.
DAD!
THIS IS WEIRD, SEEING THEM TOGETHER!
WE WERE GIVEN POWER FROM THE STARS! IT'S OBSCENE TO USE IT FOR SENSELESS SLAUGHTER!
GET REAL, BROCK! IN OUR CELL, ALL YOU COULD TALK ABOUT WAS FILLETIN' THE SPIDER-DUDE!
SO LET'S DO 'IM.
I'LL HELP.
A TEMPTING OFFER! BUT IN THIS CASE--
--BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE!

WEBBING DIDN'T DO MUCH AGAINST CARNAGE WHEN WE FOUGHT BEFORE!
SO MAYBE BRUTE STRENGTH--!
GOLLY! TWO AGAINST ONE!
I-I'M SCARED!
NOT!
WHROK
SHPLAK
WAMSH

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD CARNAGE BE STRONGER THAN VENOM AND ME?
CAN THIS SYMBIOTE BE THAT DIFFERENT?
TOK TOK
HEY! KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!
YOU WOKE THE BABY!
WAAAAH!
BABY? OOOOO!
I JUST WUUUUUUUV BABIES!
WH-WH--
YEAH, I LOVE THEM SQUEELIN' LITTLE RUGRATS TO DEATH!
SLAP
NO!
YO! BROCK!
YOU'RE ALWAYS WHININ' 'BOUT INNOCENTS, AIN'TCHA?
WAAAAAH!


THEN CHECK THIS OUT!
WAAA--eep?
DEAR LORD!
'BYE!
THE CHILD--!
TOO FAR! FALLING TOO FAST!
WEBBING!
THWIP
FLIP
SPATCH
=NF=
THERE, THERE, LITTLE ONE.
W...W... WAAAAH!
STAY BEHIND ME! IF CARNAGE ATTACKS--!

HE WON'T.
HE'S GONE.
GGGH!
BLAST!
SO GET YOUR "OTHER" IN GEAR AND FIND HIM! AFTER WE TAKE THE KID BACK TO ITS MOM, WE'VE GOTTA TRACK CARNAGE DOWN!
THAT MIGHT BE... DIFFICULT- I'M AFRAID--
--THEY'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO BLOCK MY SENSORY PROBES!
I CAN NO LONGER FEEL THEIR PRESENCE!
WHAT?!
OH, MAN! I SHOULD'VE LEFT YOU ON THAT ISLAND!
DON'T GET SNIPPY WITH ME, WEBSLINGER!
WHY NOT? WE DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHERE TO FIND--
--AW, GEEZ.
W-WE DO HAVE A CLUE!
THIS HOLE'S CLEAN! DELIBERATE!
GOTTA BE CARNAGE'S NEXT TARGET!
DAILY BUGLE 50¢
FINAL
THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER
SPECIAL ANTI-CRIME SECTION
WHY CROOKS FAIL...
BY J. J. JAMESON, PUBLISHER
AH, THE--
"--DAILY BUGLE!"
DAILY BUGLE
NEXT TIME, PENCROFT, TRIPLE-CHECK YOUR FACTS!

THE LAST THING THE BUGLE NEEDS IS ANOTHER LAWSUIT!
Y-YES, SIR, MR. JAMESON!
BLAST THE MODERN WORK ETHIC! DOESN'T ANYONE WANT TO DO THINGS RIGHT ANY MORE?
I DO!
WHA--GOOD LORD! WH-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT... ?ulp?...
...WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOU, Mr. PUBLISHER!
DEAD!
NEXT
SPIDEY! VENOM! CARNAGE! THE AWESOME CONCLUSION!

MARVEL COMICS
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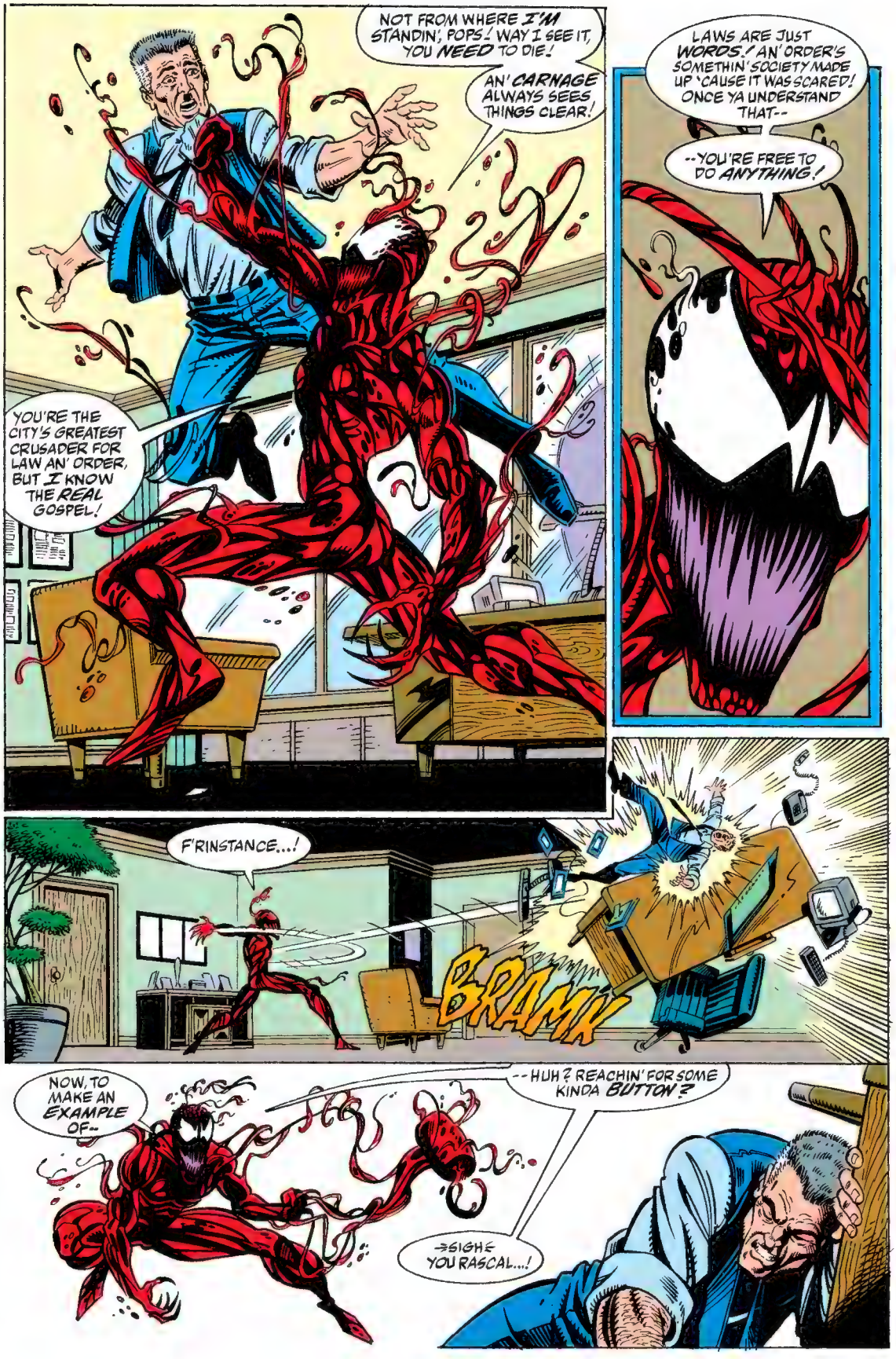
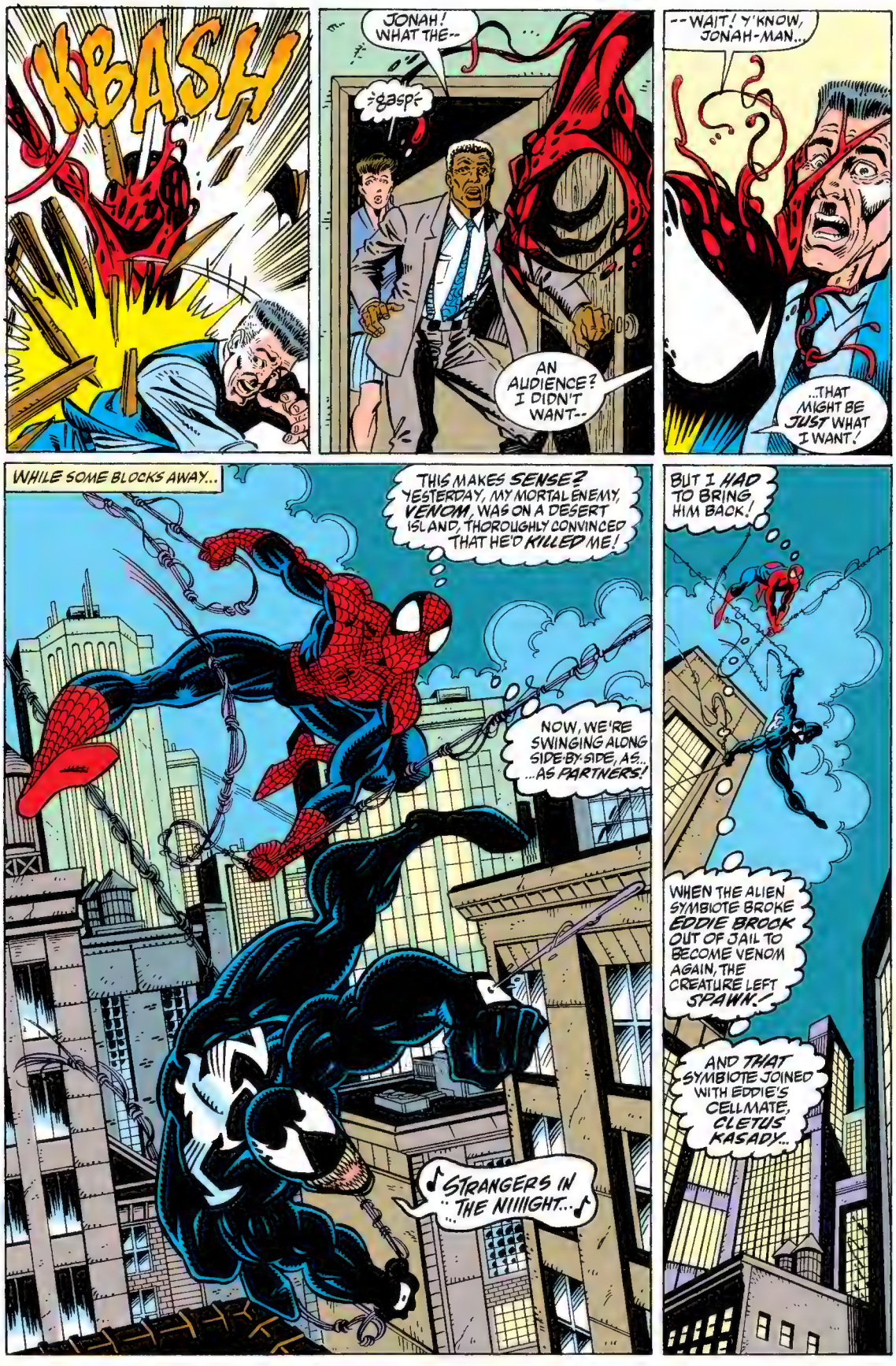
CARNAGE: THE CONCLUSION
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE COUNTDOWN TO SPIDEY'S 30th ANNIVERSARY BEGINS!
FEATURING: VENOM™ AND CARNAGE™* (AMERICA'S FAVORITE KILLER SYMBIOTES)--
BAGLEY + RE
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
*STILL SO AWESOME WE HAD TO PUT HIS NAME ON THE COVER TWICE AGAIN!
--AND THEIR WALL-CRAWLING PAL!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

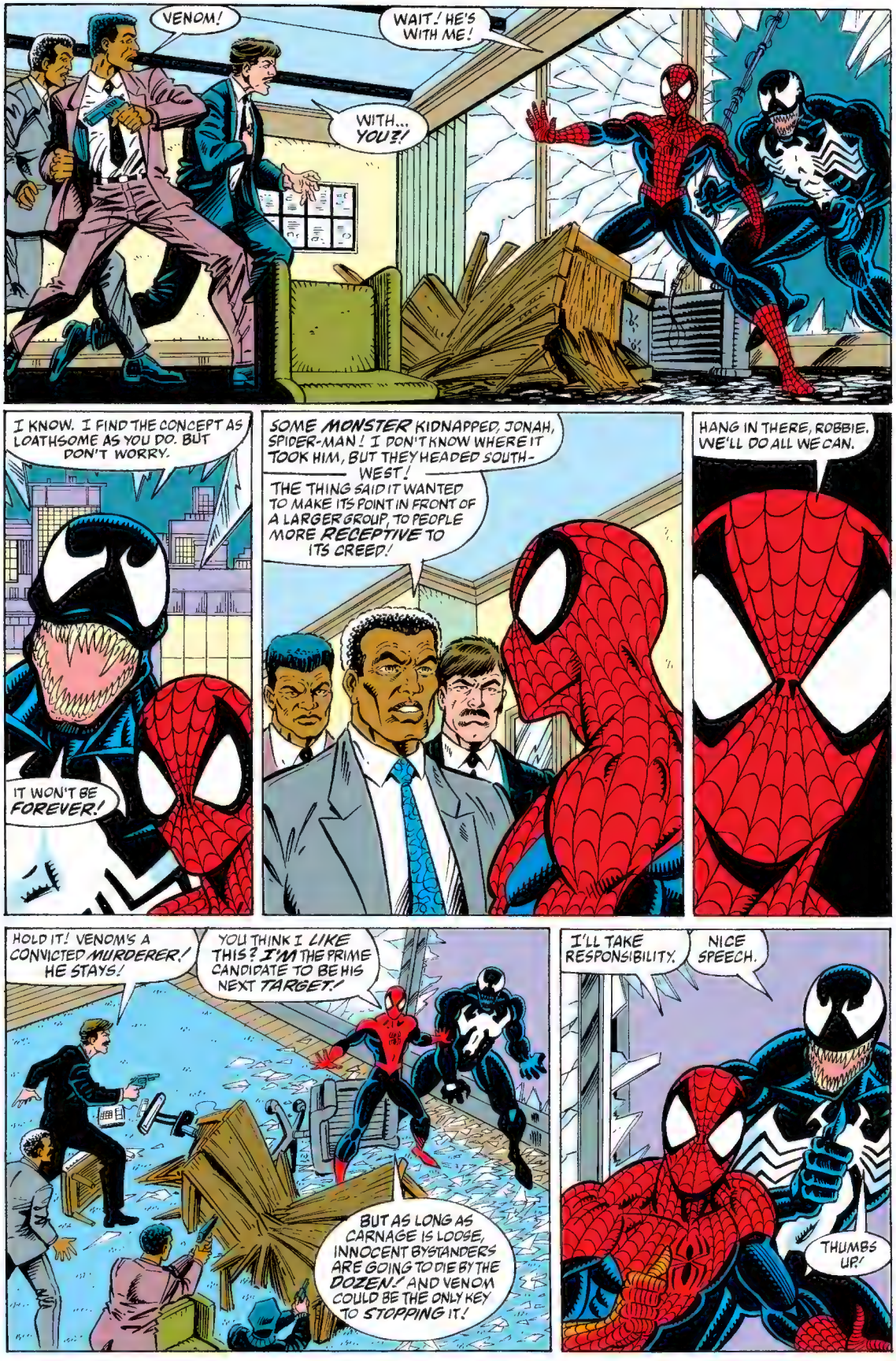
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

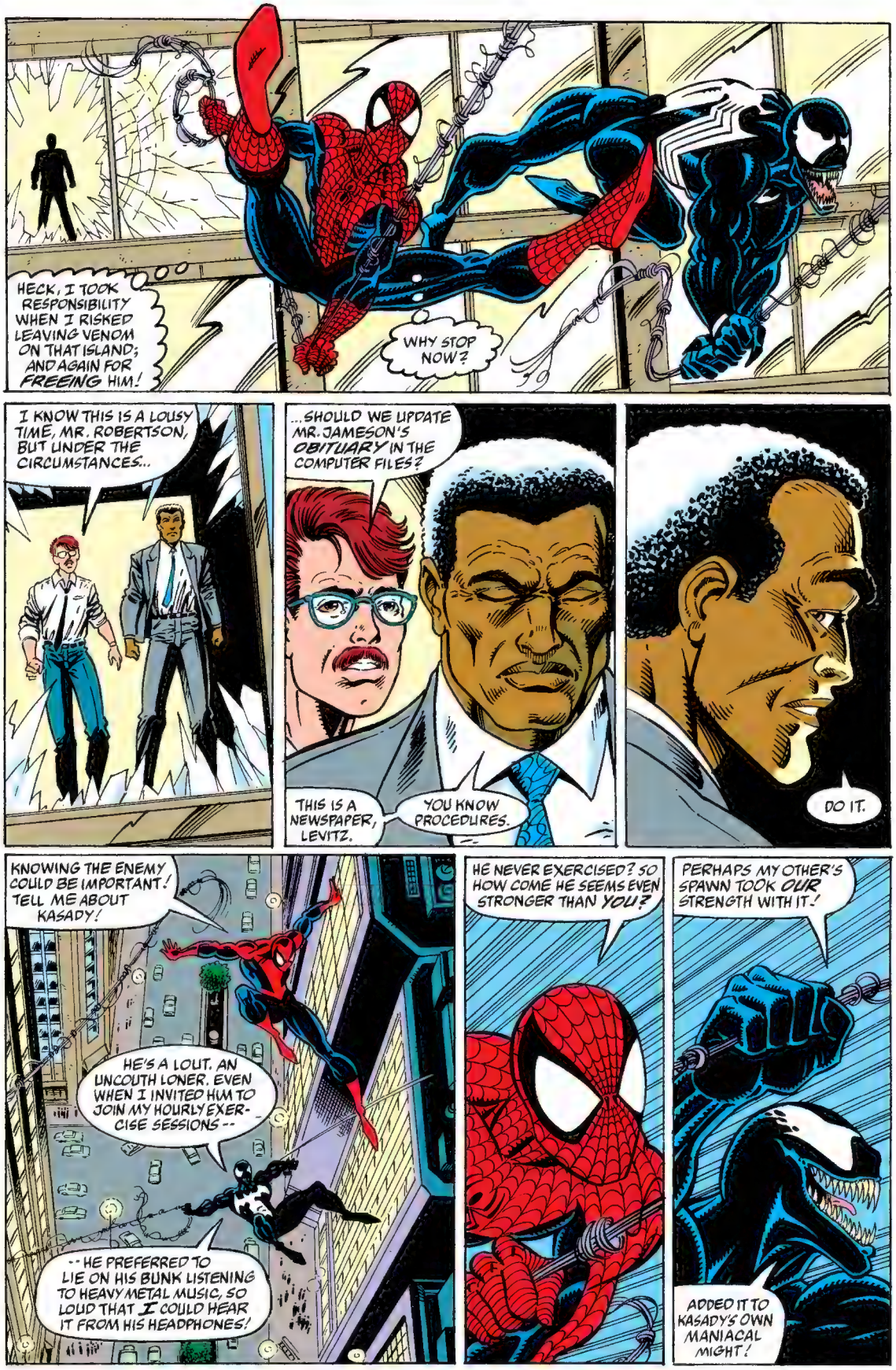
MANHATTAN; NIGHT. THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY BUGLE'S BOLD AND COURAGEOUS PUBLISHER, J. JONAH JAMESON.
B-B-BUT-- GULP-- I'M TOO IMPORTANT TO DIE!
SAVAGE GRACE!
DAVID MICHELINIE--WRITER
MARK BAGLEY--PENCILER
RANDY EMBERLIN--INKER
RICK PARKER--LETTERER
BOB SHAREN--COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH--EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO--EDITOR IN CHIEF

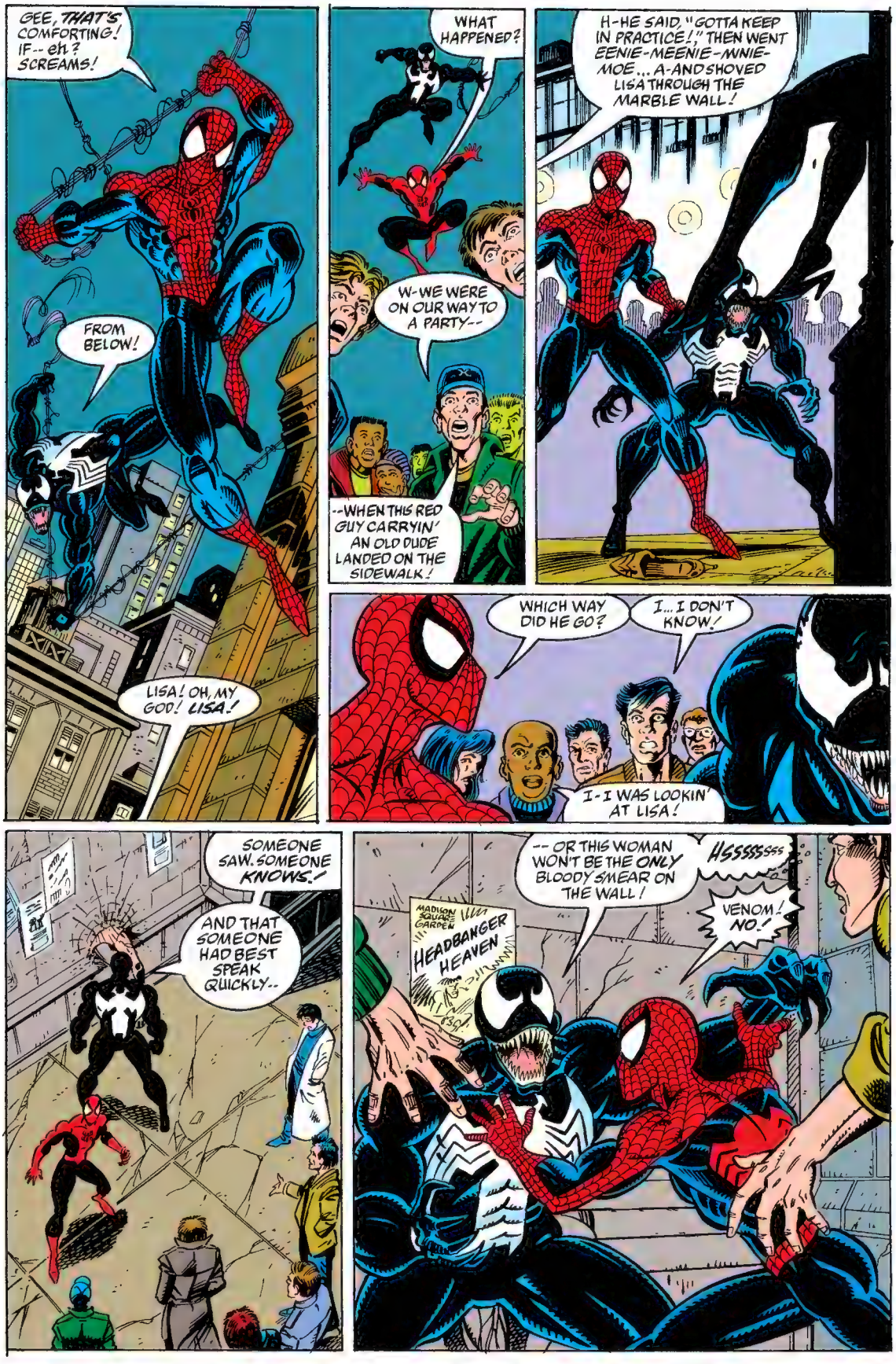

NOT FROM WHERE I'M STANDIN', POPS! WAY I SEE IT, YOU NEED TO DIE!
AN' CARNAGE ALWAYS SEES THINGS CLEAR!
YOU'RE THE CITY'S GREATEST CRUSADER FOR LAW AN' ORDER, BUT I KNOW THE REAL GOSPEL!
LAWS ARE JUST WORDS! AN' ORDER'S SOMETHIN' SOCIETY MADE UP 'CAUSE IT WAS SCARED! ONCE YA UNDERSTAND THAT--
--YOU'RE FREE TO DO ANYTHING!
F'RINSTANCE...!
BRAMK
NOW, TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF--
--HUH? REACHIN' FOR SOME KINDA BUTTON?
SIGH YOU RASCAL...!

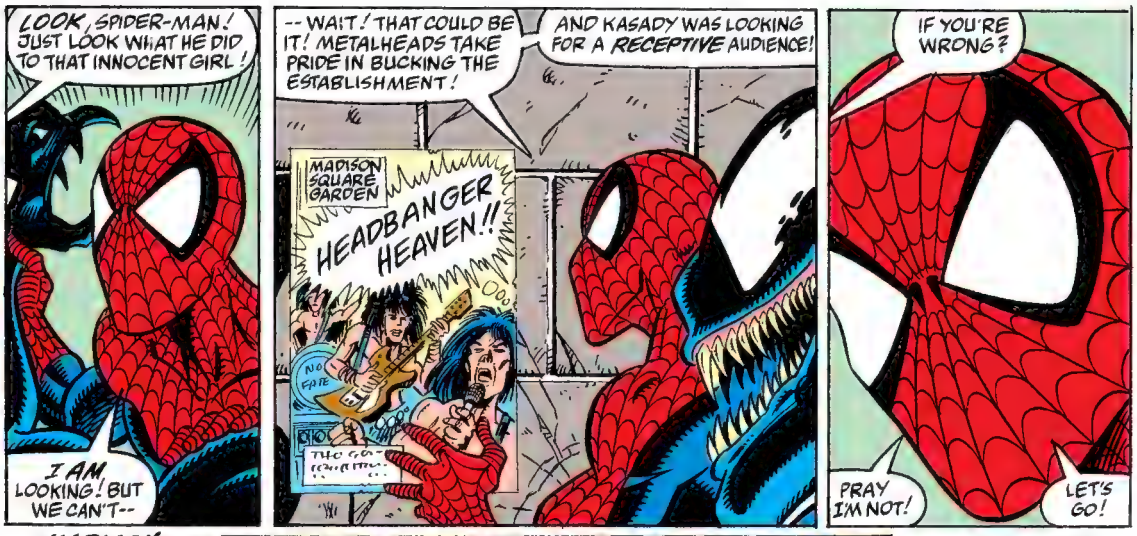

KBASH
JONAH! WHAT THE--
-gasp-
AN AUDIENCE? I DIDN'T WANT--
--WAIT! Y'KNOW, JONAH-MAN...
...THAT MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I WANT!
WHILE SOME BLOCKS AWAY...
THIS MAKES SENSE? YESTERDAY, MY MORTAL ENEMY, VENOM, WAS ON A DESERT ISLAND, THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT HE'D KILLED ME!
NOW, WE'RE SWINGING ALONG SIDE-BY-SIDE, AS... ...AS PARTNERS!
♪ STRANGERS IN THE NIIIGHT... ♪
BUT I HAD TO BRING HIM BACK!
WHEN THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE BROKE EDDIE BROCK OUT OF JAIL TO BECOME VENOM AGAIN, THE CREATURE LEFT SPAWN...
AND THAT SYMBIOTE JOINED WITH EDDIE'S CELLMATE, CLETUS KASADY...

...A SOCIOPATHIC KILLER, WHO, AS CARNAGE, DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE TWISTED CONSCIENCE VENOM HAS!
WHAT'S WORSE, CARNAGE IS GOING AFTER SOMEONE I KNOW!
LISTEN, I STILL SAY WE CALL THE AVENGERS, OR--
NO! YOU PROMISED ME FREEDOM WHEN THIS IS OVER. OTHERS MIGHT NOT HONOR THAT BARGAIN!
TERRIFIC. I WAS ALREADY REGRETTING THIS ARRANGEMENT!
BUT I GUESS WHEN YOU DEAL WITH THE DEVIL--
--YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN TO DANCE AROUND FLAMES!
BUT, MR. ROBERTSON--
I TELL YOU, INSPECTOR, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS! I-IT WAS RED, A-AND BLACK! AND ITS SKIN SEEMED ALIVE!
THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE--
--IS THAT IT TOOK MR. JAMESON!
JUST TELL US WHERE, ROBBIE! WE'LL FIND HIM!
"WE"?!!

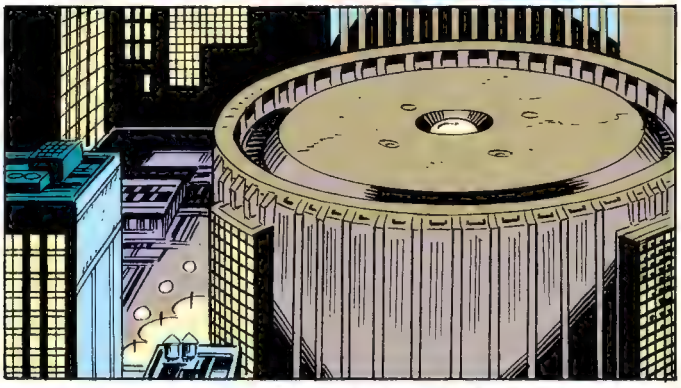

VENOM!
WAIT! HE'S WITH ME!
WITH... YOU?!
I KNOW. I FIND THE CONCEPT AS LOATHSOME AS YOU DO. BUT DON'T WORRY.
IT WON'T BE FOREVER!
SOME MONSTER KIDNAPPED JONAH, SPIDER-MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT TOOK HIM, BUT THEY HEADED SOUTH-WEST!
THE THING SAID IT WANTED TO MAKE ITS POINT IN FRONT OF A LARGER GROUP, TO PEOPLE MORE RECEPTIVE TO ITS CREED!
HANG IN THERE, ROBBIE. WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN.
HOLD IT! VENOM'S A CONVICTED MURDERER! HE STAYS!
YOU THINK I LIKE THIS? I'M THE PRIME CANDIDATE TO BE HIS NEXT TARGET!
BUT AS LONG AS CARNAGE IS LOOSE, INNOCENT BYSTANDERS ARE GOING TO DIE BY THE DOZEN! AND VENOM COULD BE THE ONLY KEY TO STOPPING IT!
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY.
NICE SPEECH.
THUMBS UP!


HECK, I TOOK RESPONSIBILITY WHEN I RISKED LEAVING VENOM ON THAT ISLAND; AND AGAIN FOR FREEING HIM!
WHY STOP NOW?
I KNOW THIS IS A LOUSY TIME, MR. ROBERTSON, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
...SHOULD WE UPDATE MR. JAMESON'S OBITUARY IN THE COMPUTER FILES?
THIS IS A NEWSPAPER, LEVITZ.
YOU KNOW PROCEDURES.
DO IT.
KNOWING THE ENEMY COULD BE IMPORTANT! TELL ME ABOUT KASADY!
HE'S A LOUT, AN UNCOUTH LONER. EVEN WHEN I INVITED HIM TO JOIN MY HOURLY EXER-CISE SESSIONS --
-- HE PREFERRED TO LIE ON HIS BUNK LISTENING TO HEAVY METAL MUSIC, SO LOUD THAT I COULD HEAR IT FROM HIS HEADPHONES!
HE NEVER EXERCISED? SO HOW COME HE SEEMS EVEN STRONGER THAN YOU?
PERHAPS MY OTHER'S SPAWN TOOK OUR STRENGTH WITH IT!
ADDED IT TO KASADY'S OWN MANIACAL MIGHT!

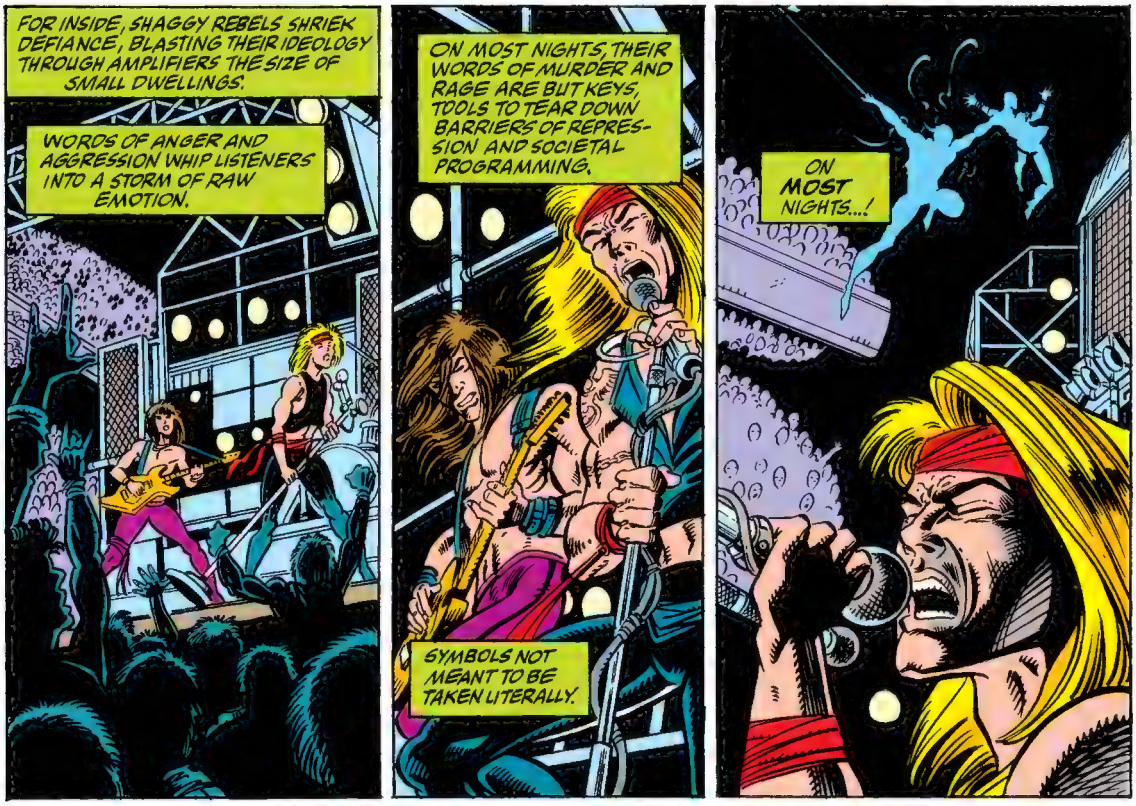

GEE, THAT'S COMFORTING! IF-- eh? SCREAMS!
FROM BELOW!
LISA! OH, MY GOD! LISA!
WHAT HAPPENED?
W-WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO A PARTY--
--WHEN THIS RED GUY CARRYIN' AN OLD DUDE LANDED ON THE SIDEWALK!
H-HE SAID, "GOTTA KEEP IN PRACTICE!" THEN WENT EENIE-MEENIE-MINIE-MOE... A-AND SHOVED LISA THROUGH THE MARBLE WALL!
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?
I... I DON'T KNOW!
I-I WAS LOOKIN' AT LISA!
SOMEONE SAW. SOMEONE KNOWS!
AND THAT SOMEONE HAD BEST SPEAK QUICKLY--
-- OR THIS WOMAN WON'T BE THE ONLY BLOODY SMEAR ON THE WALL!
HSSSSSSSS
VENOM! NO!
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
HEADBANGER HEAVEN

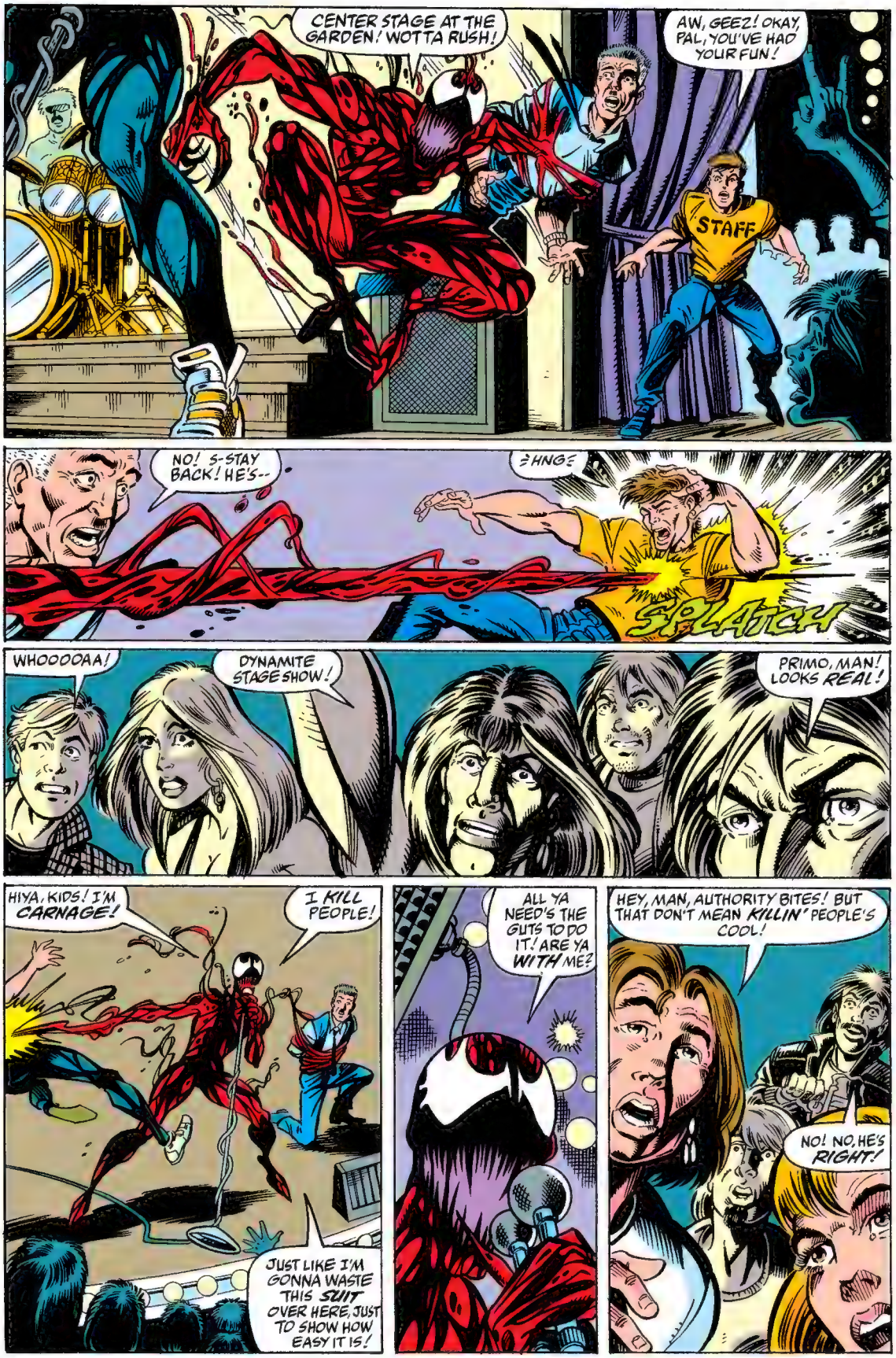

LOOK, SPIDER-MAN! JUST LOOK WHAT HE DID TO THAT INNOCENT GIRL!
I AM LOOKING! BUT WE CAN'T--
-- WAIT! THAT COULD BE IT! METALHEADS TAKE PRIDE IN BUCKING THE ESTABLISHMENT!
AND KASADY WAS LOOKING FOR A RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE!
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
HEADBANGER HEAVEN!!
IF YOU'RE WRONG?
PRAY I'M NOT!
LET'S GO!

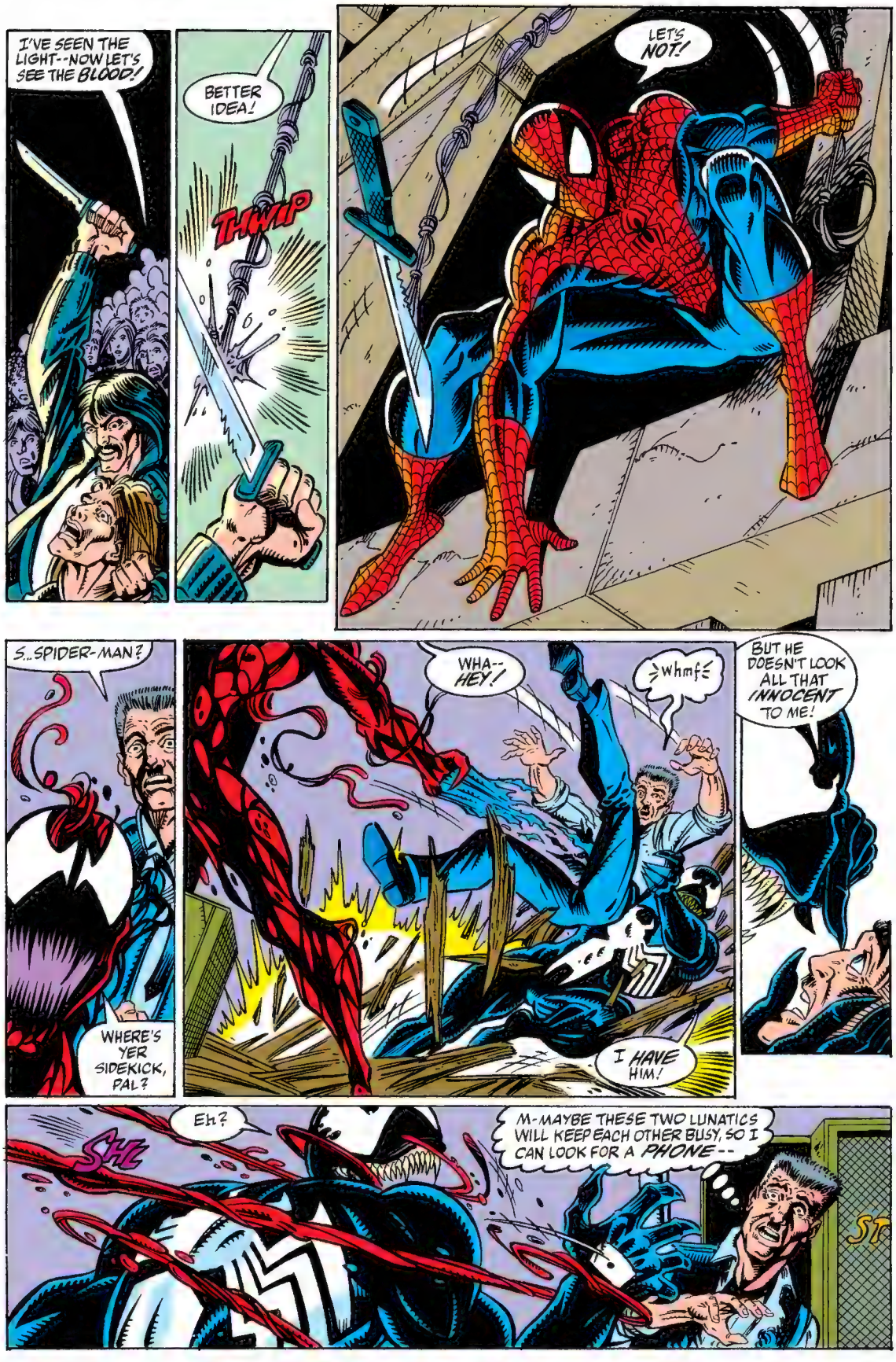
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN: A NEW YORK INSTITUTION, BUILT TO LAST.

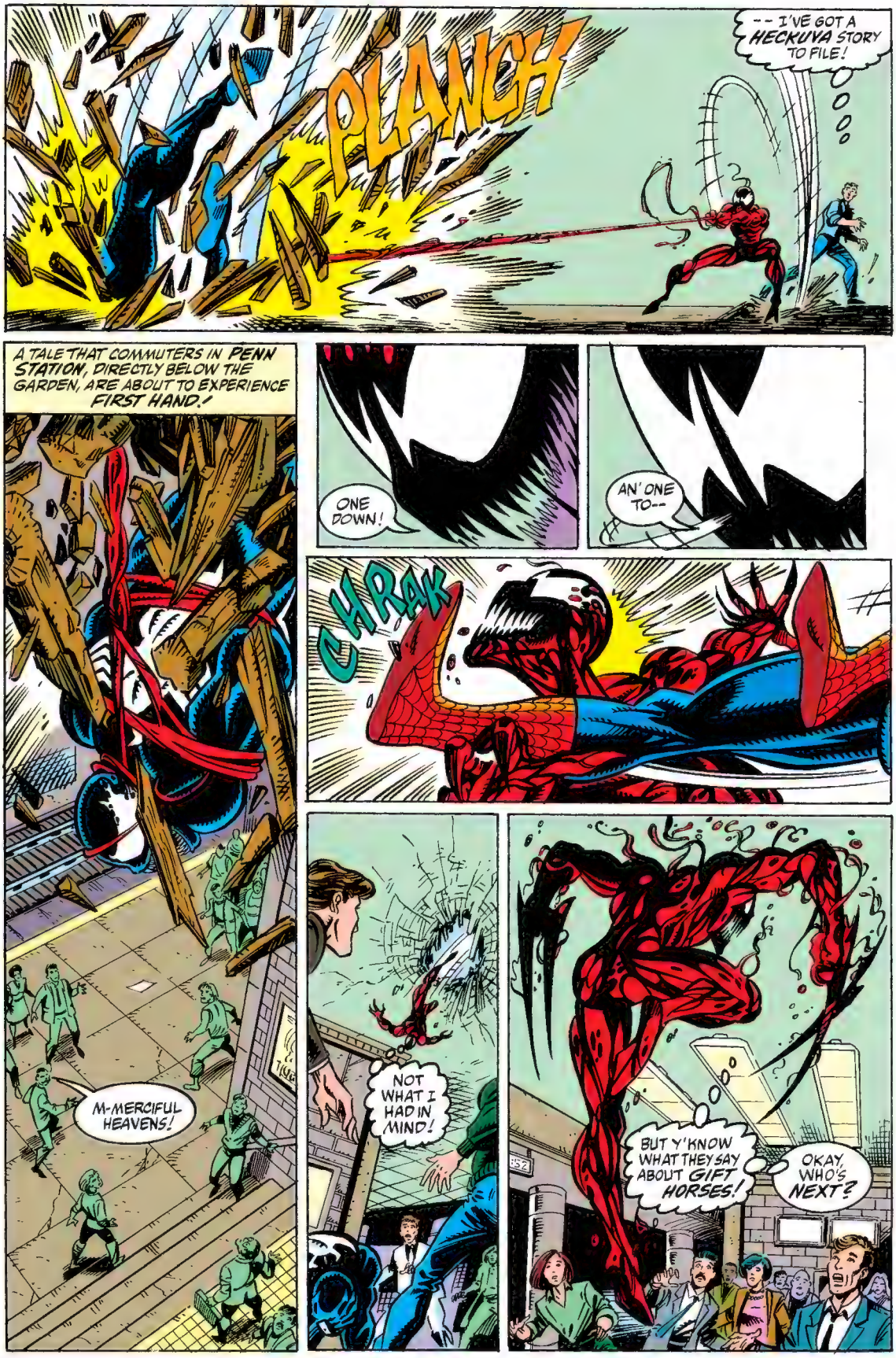


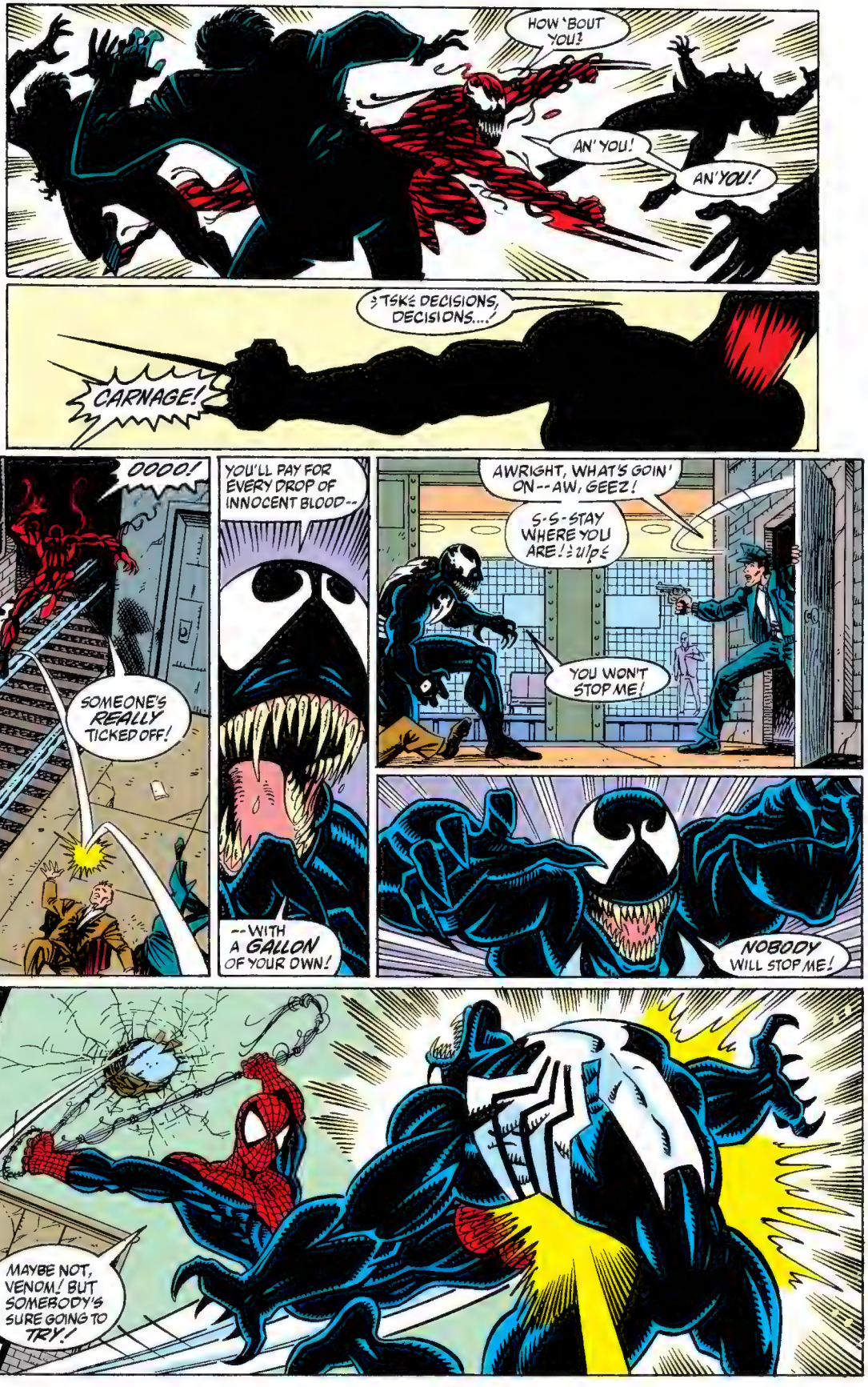
BUT TONIGHT, THAT VENERABLE VENUE'S STEEL AND CONCRETE WALLS TREMBLE!

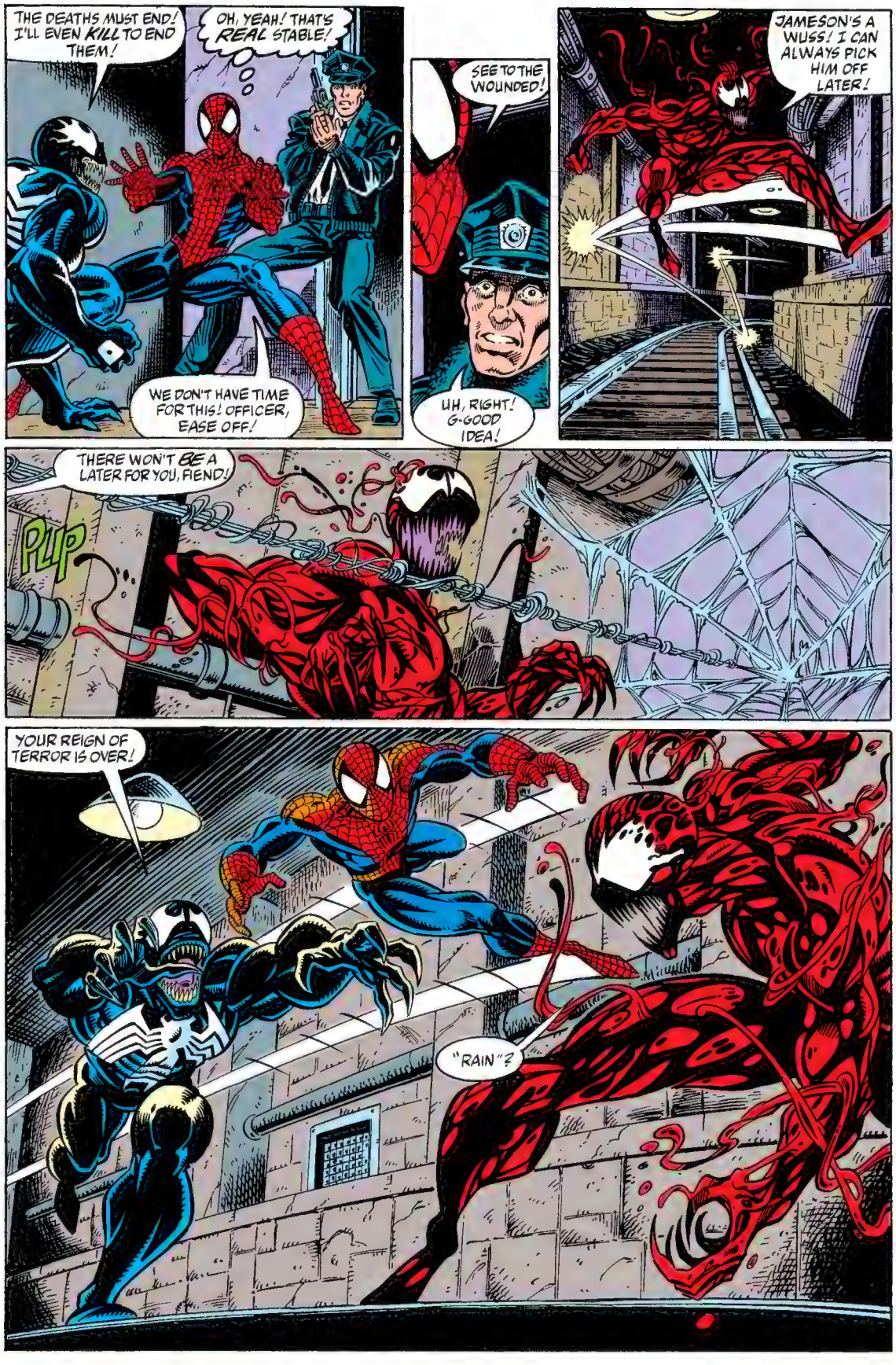

FOR INSIDE, SHAGGY REBELS SHRIEK DEFIANCE, BLASTING THEIR IDEOLOGY THROUGH AMPLIFIERS THE SIZE OF SMALL DWELLINGS.
WORDS OF ANGER AND AGGRESSION WHIP LISTENERS INTO A STORM OF RAW EMOTION.
ON MOST NIGHTS, THEIR WORDS OF MURDER AND RAGE ARE BUT KEYS, TOOLS TO TEAR DOWN BARRIERS OF REPRESSION AND SOCIETAL PROGRAMMING.
SYMBOLS NOT MEANT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY.
ON MOST NIGHTS...!

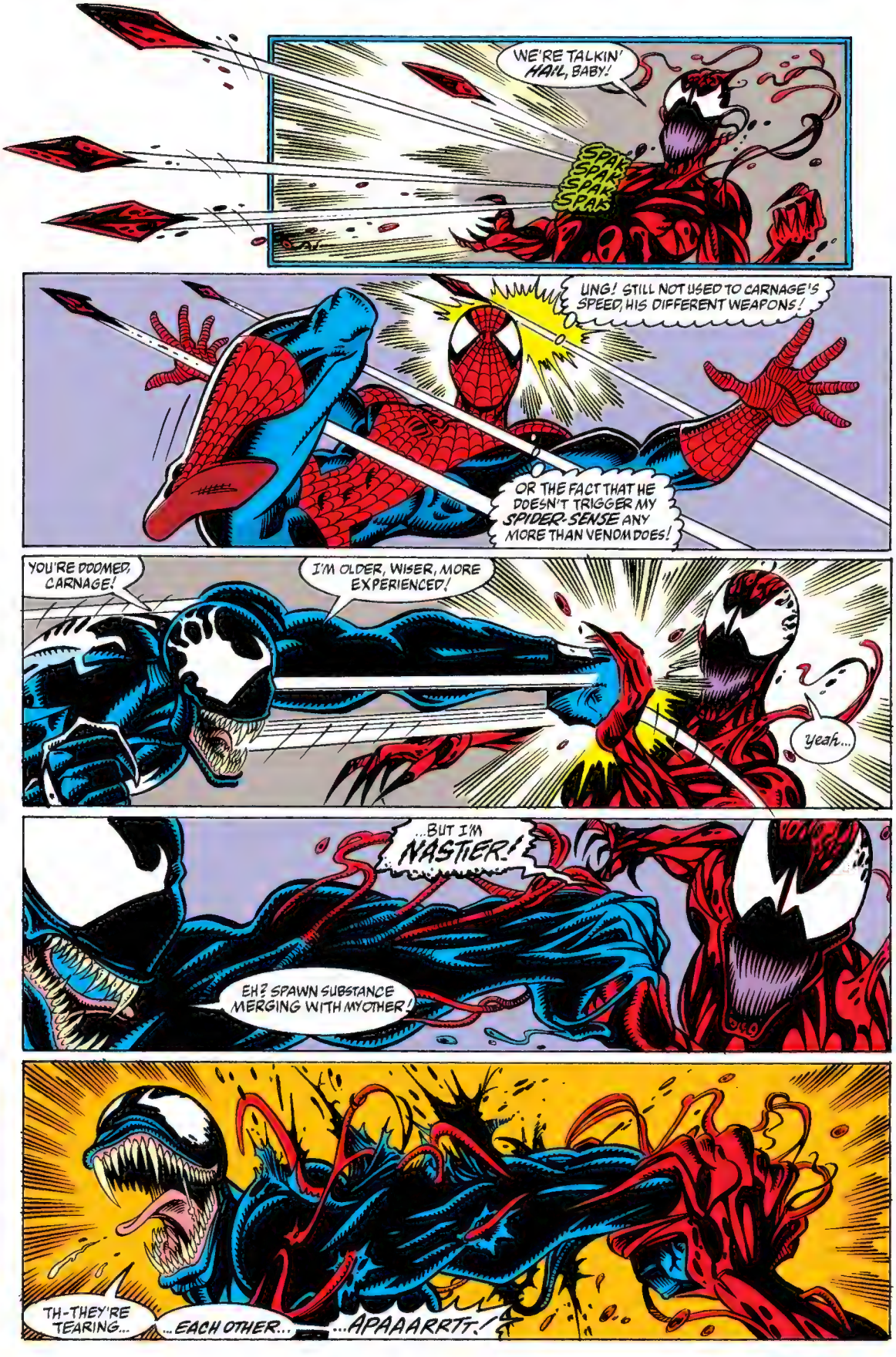

CENTER STAGE AT THE GARDEN! WOTTA RUSH!
AW, GEEZ! OKAY, PAL, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN!
STAFF
NO! S-STAY BACK! HE'S--
=HNG=
SPLATCH
WHOOOOAA!
DYNAMITE STAGE SHOW!
PRIMO, MAN! LOOKS REAL!
HIYA, KIDS! I'M CARNAGE!
I KILL PEOPLE!
JUST LIKE I'M GONNA WASTE THIS SUIT OVER HERE, JUST TO SHOW HOW EASY IT IS!
ALL YA NEED'S THE GUTS TO DO IT! ARE YA WITH ME?
HEY, MAN, AUTHORITY BITES! BUT THAT DON'T MEAN KILLIN' PEOPLE'S COOL!
NO! NO, HE'S RIGHT!

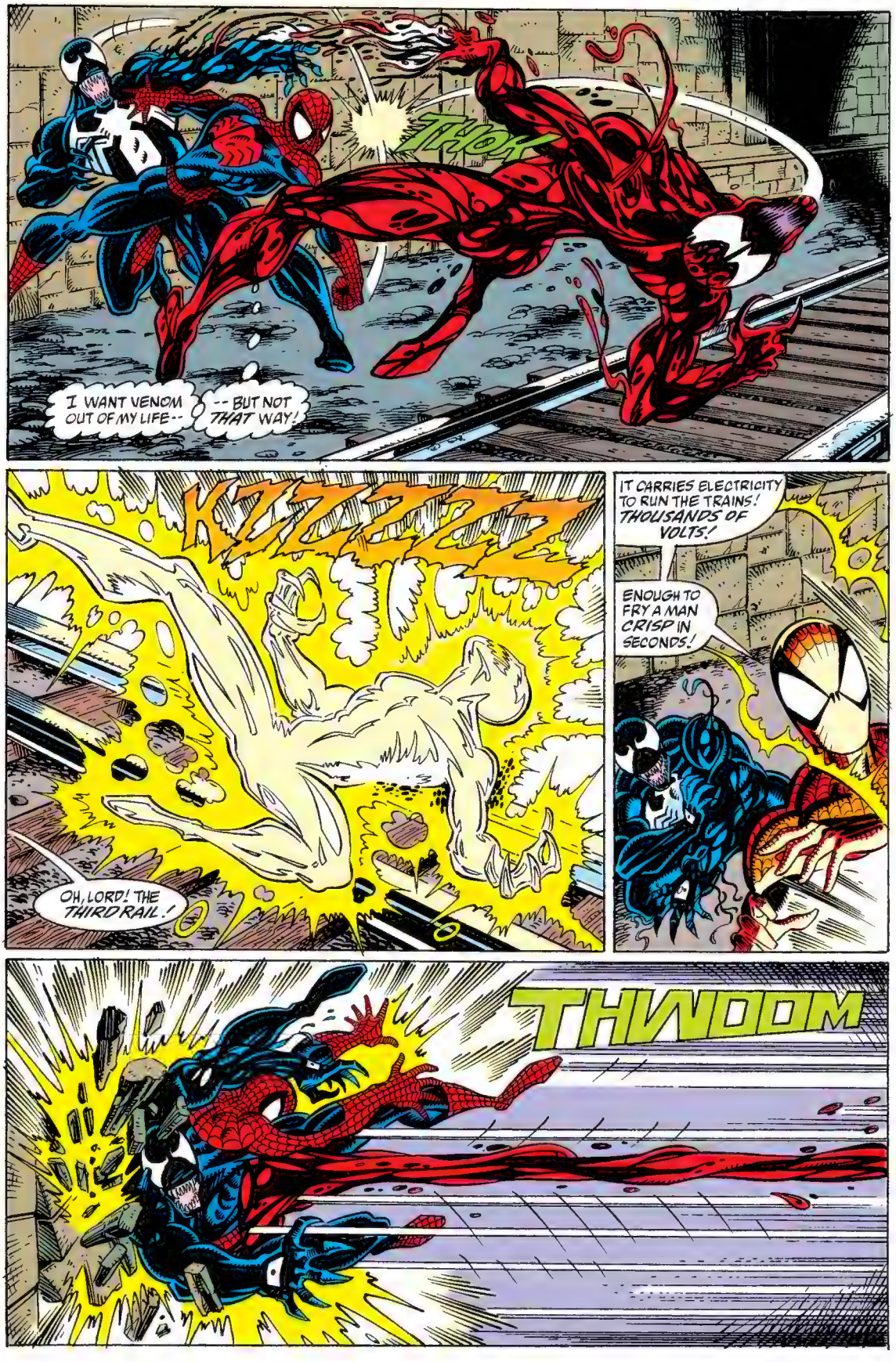

I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT--NOW LET'S SEE THE BLOOD!
BETTER IDEA!
THWIP
LET'S NOT!
S..SPIDER-MAN?
WHERE'S YER SIDEKICK, PAL?
WHA--HEY!
≥whmf≤
I HAVE HIM!
BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK ALL THAT INNOCENT TO ME!
SHL
Eh?
M-MAYBE THESE TWO LUNATICS WILL KEEP EACH OTHER BUSY, SO I CAN LOOK FOR A PHONE--
ST

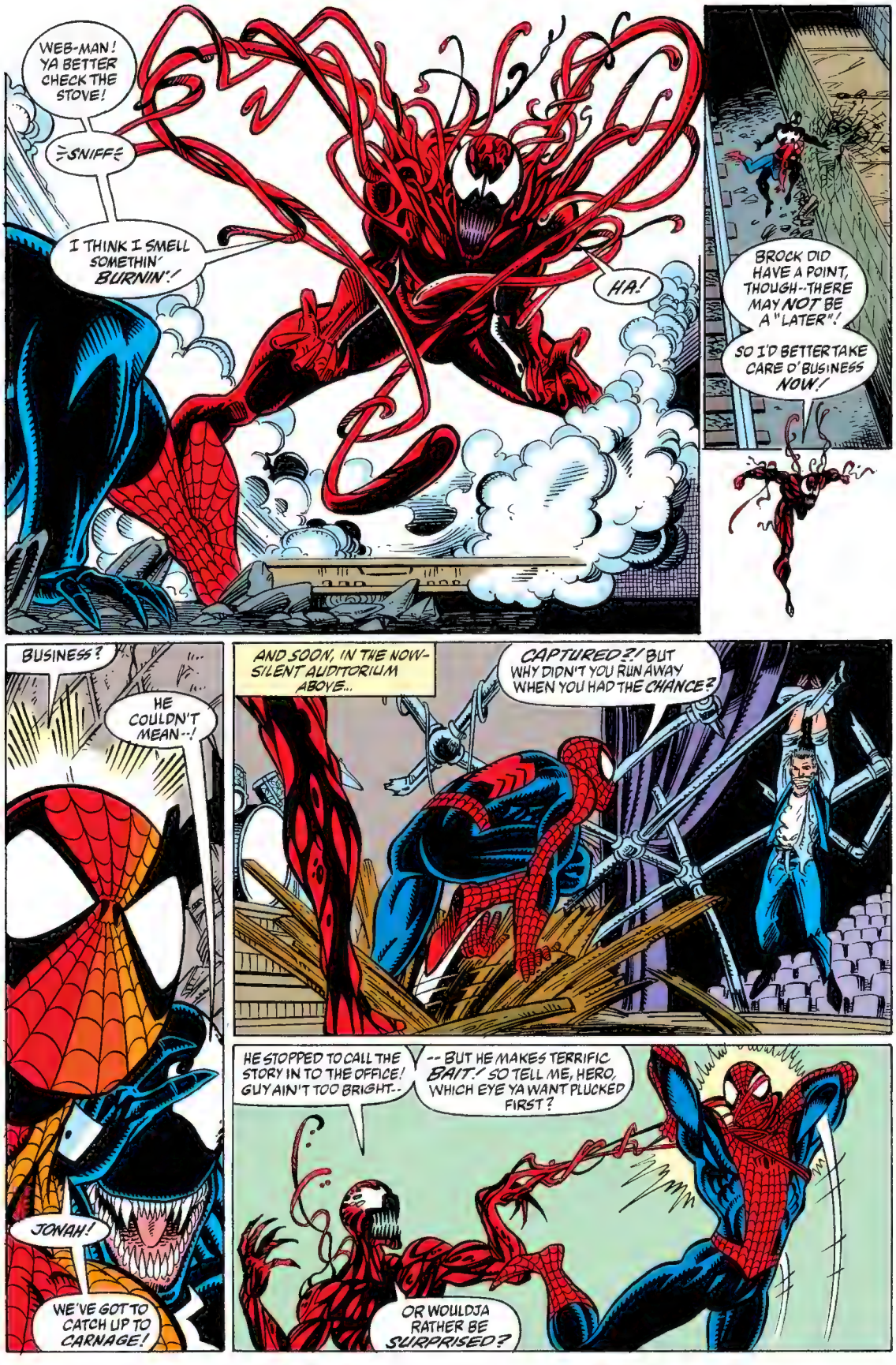

PLANCH!
-- I'VE GOT A HECKUVA STORY TO FILE!
A TALE THAT COMMUTERS IN PENN STATION, DIRECTLY BELOW THE GARDEN, ARE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE FIRST HAND.!
ONE DOWN!
AN' ONE TO--
CHRAK
M-MERCIFUL HEAVENS!
NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
BUT Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT GIFT HORSES!
OKAY, WHO'S NEXT?

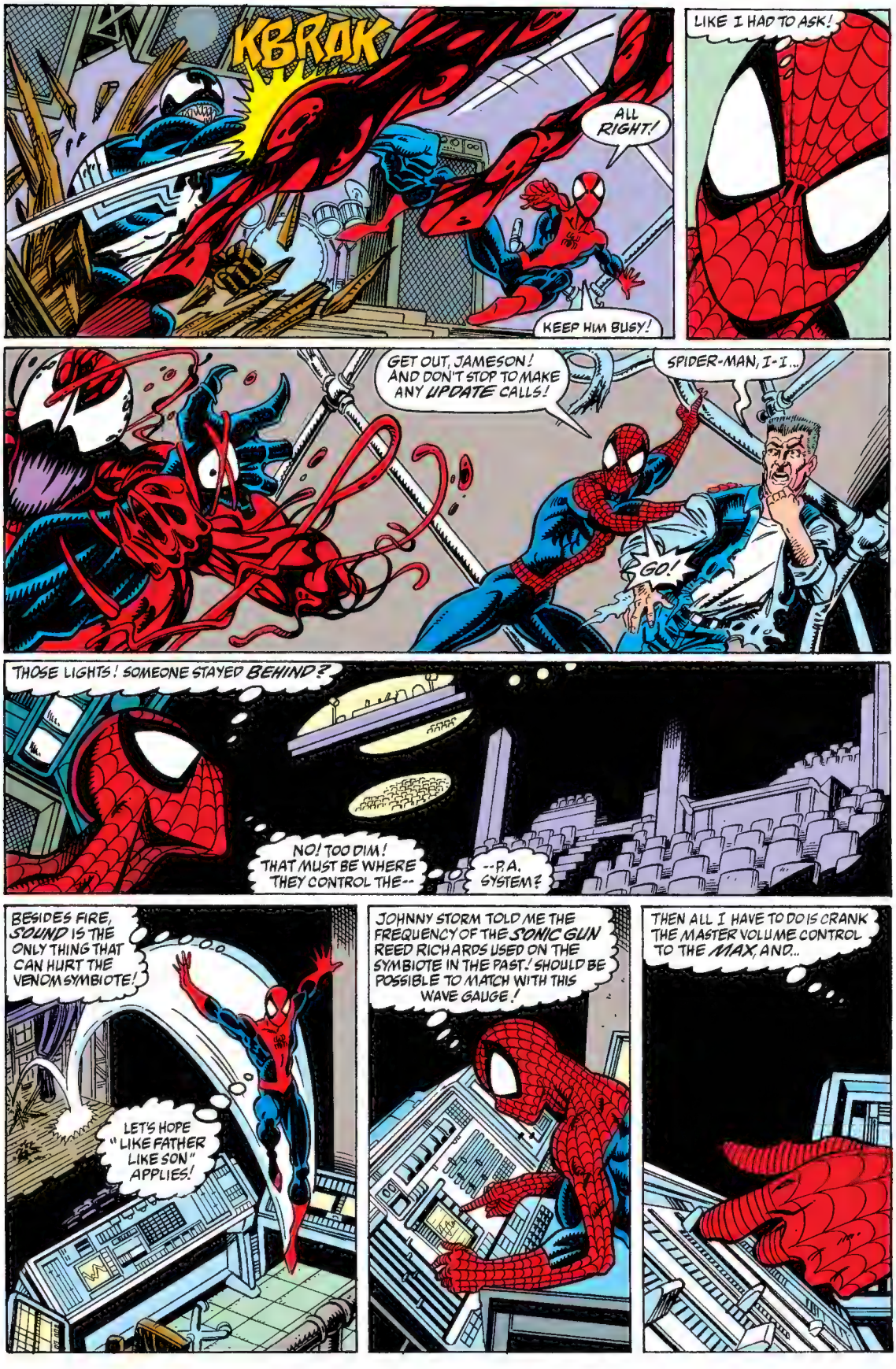

HOW 'BOUT YOU?
AN' YOU!
AN' YOU!
TSK! DECISIONS, DECISIONS....!
CARNAGE!
OOOO!
SOMEONE'S REALLY TICKED OFF!
YOU'LL PAY FOR EVERY DROP OF INNOCENT BLOOD--
--WITH A GALLON OF YOUR OWN!
AWRIGHT, WHAT'S GOIN' ON--AW, GEEZ!
S-S-STAY WHERE YOU ARE! ULP!
YOU WON'T STOP ME!
NOBODY WILL STOP ME!
MAYBE NOT, VENOM! BUT SOMEBODY'S SURE GOING TO TRY!

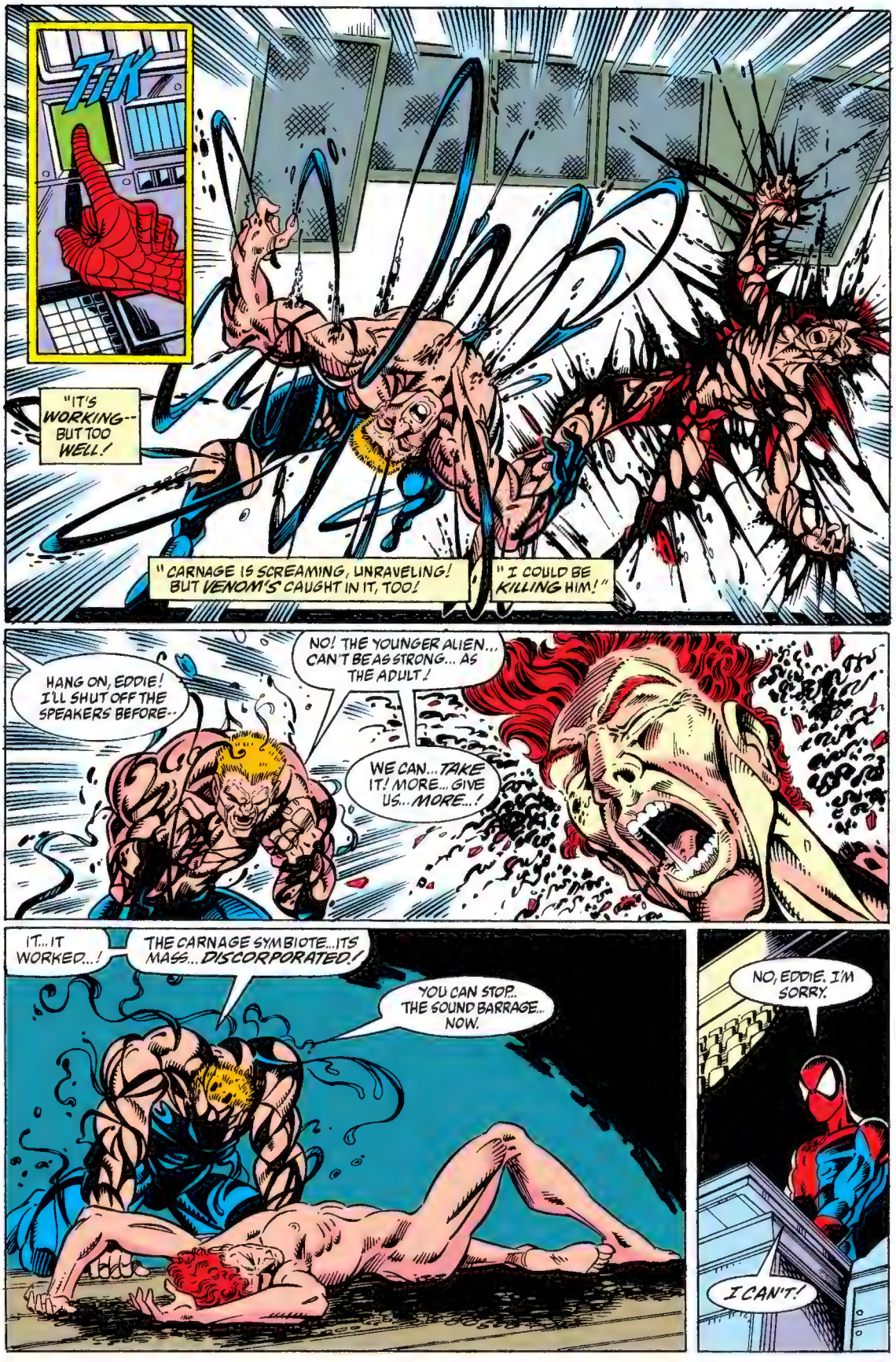

THE DEATHS MUST END! I'LL EVEN KILL TO END THEM!
OH, YEAH! THAT'S REAL STABLE!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! OFFICER, EASE OFF!
SEE TO THE WOUNDED!
UH, RIGHT! G-GOOD IDEA!
JAMESON'S A WUSS! I CAN ALWAYS PICK HIM OFF LATER!
THERE WON'T BE A LATER FOR YOU, FIEND!
PUP
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER!
"RAIN"?

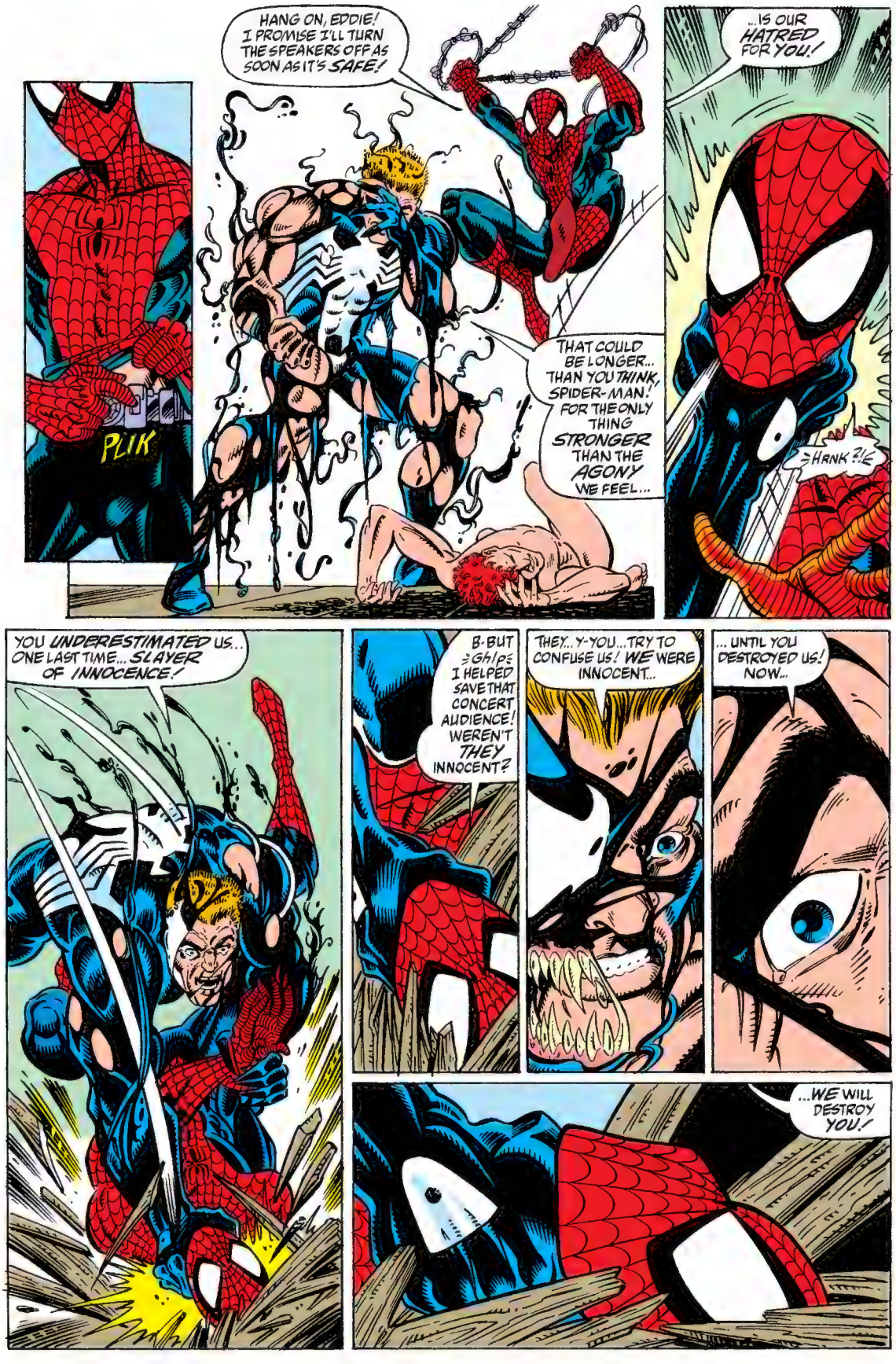

WE'RE TALKIN' HAIL, BABY!
SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
UNG! STILL NOT USED TO CARNAGE'S SPEED, HIS DIFFERENT WEAPONS!
OR THE FACT THAT HE DOESN'T TRIGGER MY SPIDER-SENSE ANY MORE THAN VENOM DOES!
YOU'RE DOOMED, CARNAGE!
I'M OLDER, WISER, MORE EXPERIENCED!
Yeah...
...BUT I'M NASTIER!
EH? SPAWN SUBSTANCE MERGING WITH MY OTHER!
TH-THEY'RE TEARING...
...EACH OTHER...
...APAAARRTT!

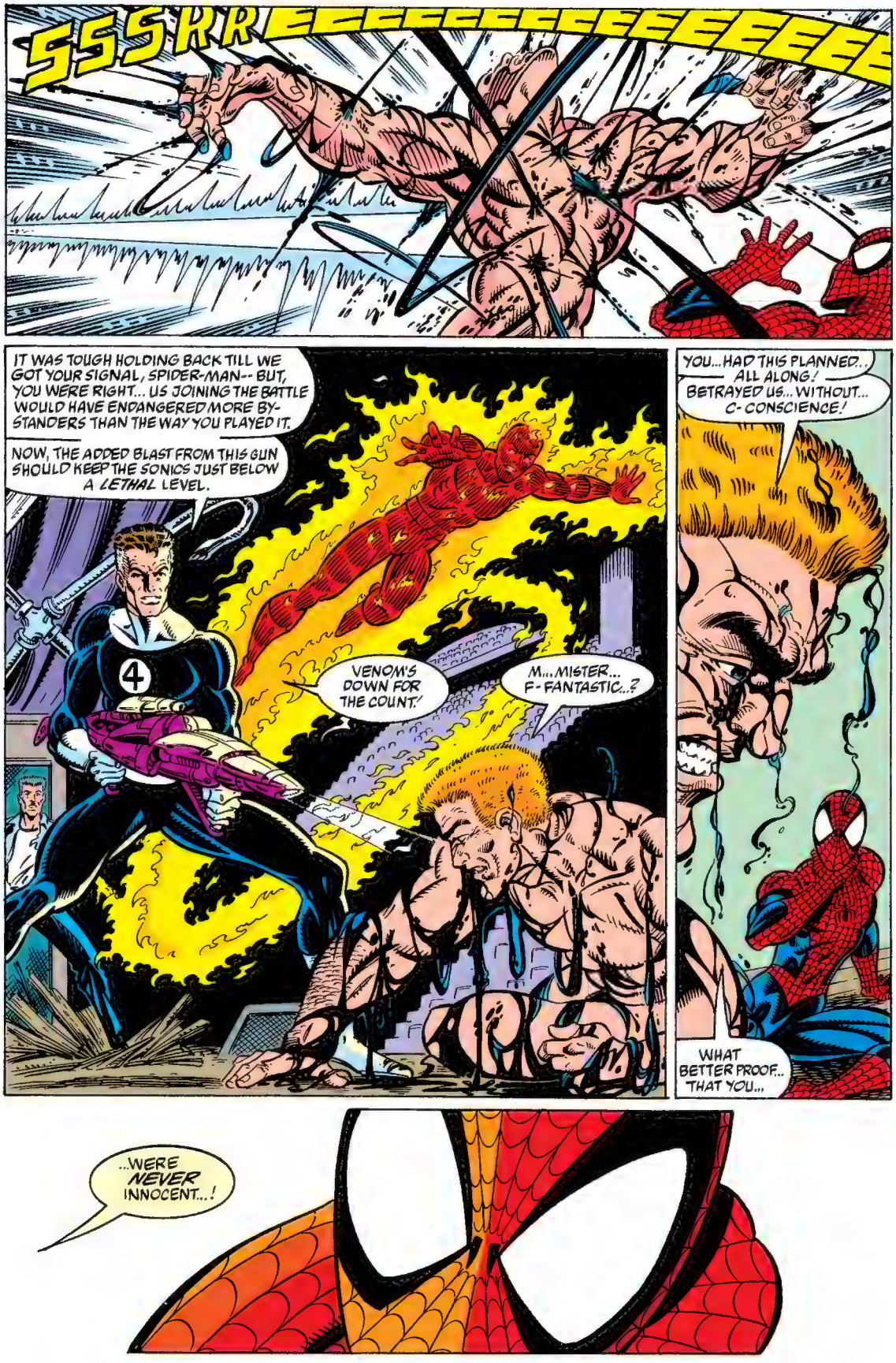

THOK
I WANT VENOM OUT OF MY LIFE--
--BUT NOT THAT WAY!
KZZZZZZ
OH, LORD! THE THIRD RAIL!
IT CARRIES ELECTRICITY TO RUN THE TRAINS! THOUSANDS OF VOLTS!
ENOUGH TO FRY A MAN CRISP IN SECONDS!
THWOOM

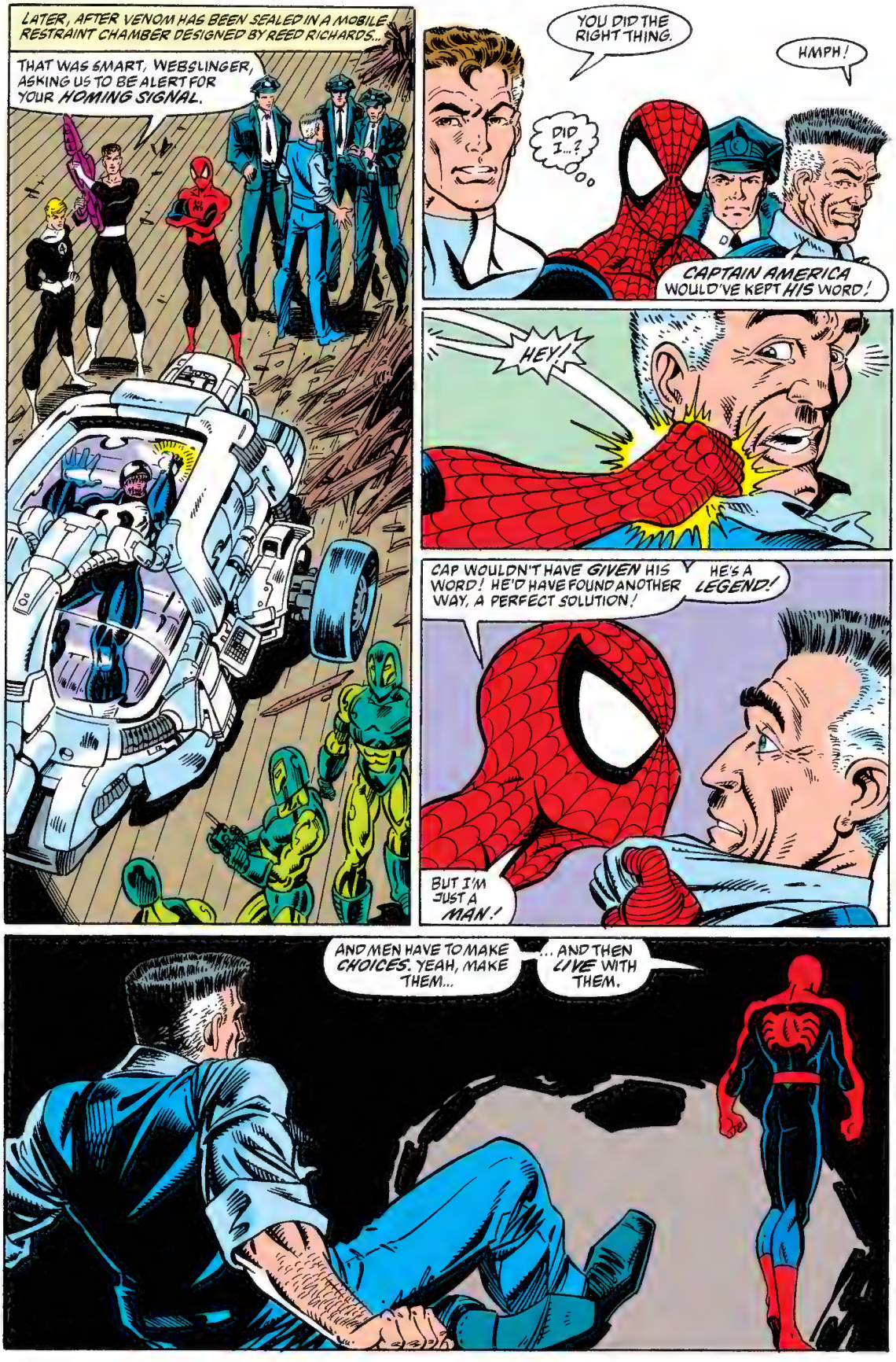

WEB-MAN! YA BETTER CHECK THE STOVE!
=SNIFF=
I THINK I SMELL SOMETHIN' BURNIN'!
HA!
BROCK DID HAVE A POINT, THOUGH--THERE MAY NOT BE A "LATER"!
SO I'D BETTER TAKE CARE O' BUSINESS NOW!
BUSINESS?
HE COULDN'T MEAN--!
JONAH!
WE'VE GOT TO CATCH UP TO CARNAGE!
AND SOON, IN THE NOW-SILENT AUDITORIUM ABOVE...
CAPTURED?! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?
HE STOPPED TO CALL THE STORY IN TO THE OFFICE! GUY AIN'T TOO BRIGHT--
-- BUT HE MAKES TERRIFIC BAIT! SO TELL ME, HERO, WHICH EYE YA WANT PLUCKED FIRST?
OR WOULDJA RATHER BE SURPRISED?

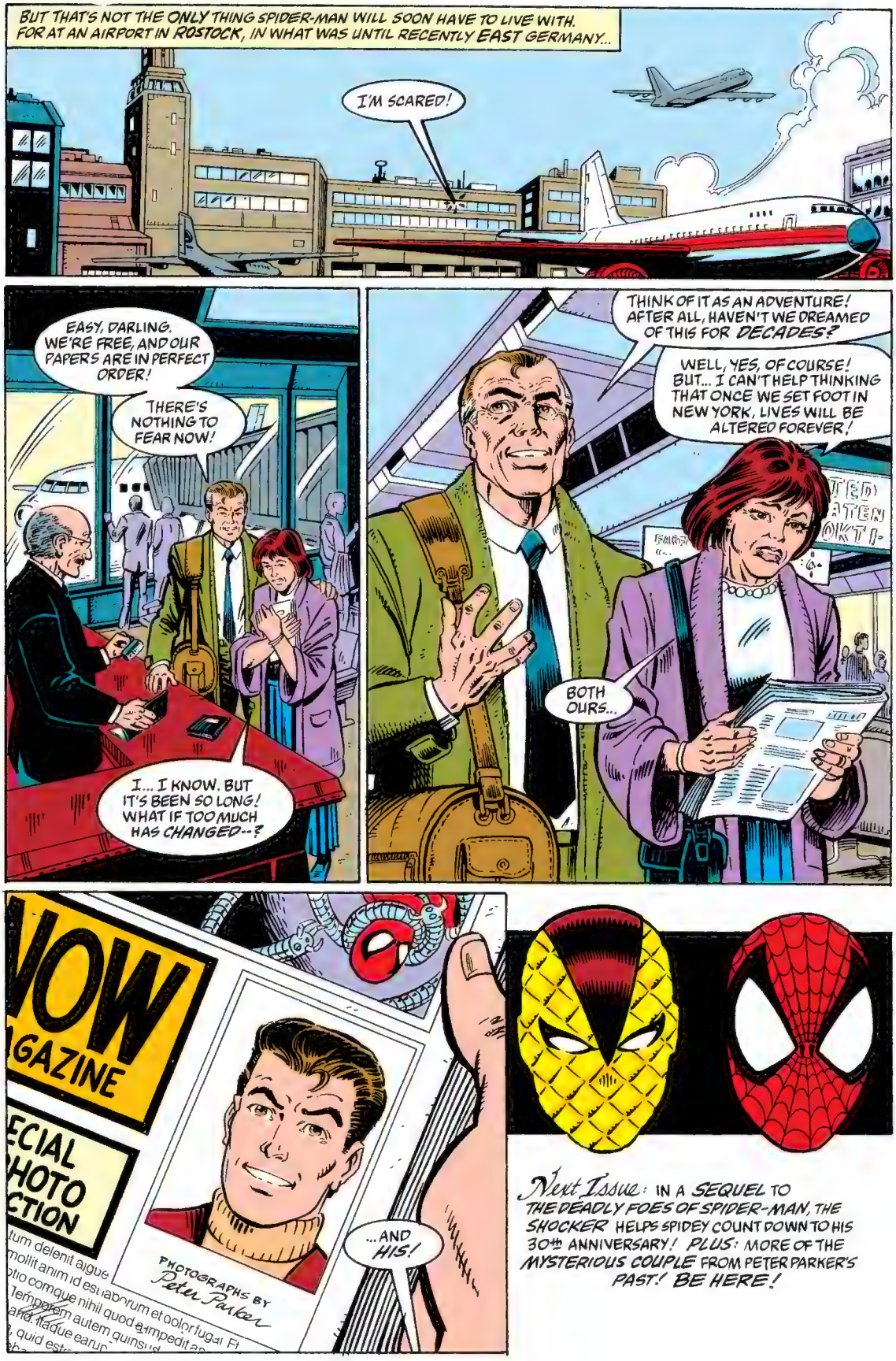

KBRAK
ALL RIGHT!
KEEP HIM BUSY!
LIKE I HAD TO ASK!
GET OUT, JAMESON! AND DON'T STOP TO MAKE ANY UPDATE CALLS!
SPIDER-MAN, I-I...
GO!
THOSE LIGHTS! SOMEONE STAYED BEHIND?
NO! TOO DIM! THAT MUST BE WHERE THEY CONTROL THE--
--P.A. SYSTEM?
BESIDES FIRE, SOUND IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HURT THE VENOM SYMBIOTE!
LET'S HOPE "LIKE FATHER LIKE SON" APPLIES!
JOHNNY STORM TOLD ME THE FREQUENCY OF THE SONIC GUN REED RICHARDS USED ON THE SYMBIOTE IN THE PAST! SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MATCH WITH THIS WAVE GAUGE!
THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CRANK THE MASTER VOLUME CONTROL TO THE MAX, AND...


TIK
"IT'S WORKING--BUT TOO WELL!
"CARNAGE IS SCREAMING, UNRAVELING! BUT VENOM'S CAUGHT IN IT, TOO!
"I COULD BE KILLING HIM!"
HANG ON, EDDIE! I'LL SHUT OFF THE SPEAKERS BEFORE--
NO! THE YOUNGER ALIEN... CAN'T BE AS STRONG... AS THE ADULT!
WE CAN... TAKE IT! MORE... GIVE US... MORE...!
IT... IT WORKED...!
THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE... ITS MASS... DISCORPORATED!
YOU CAN STOP... THE SOUND BARRAGE... NOW.
NO, EDDIE. I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T!


HANG ON, EDDIE! I PROMISE I'LL TURN THE SPEAKERS OFF AS SOON AS IT'S SAFE!
PLIK
THAT COULD BE LONGER... THAN YOU THINK, SPIDER-MAN! FOR THE ONLY THING STRONGER THAN THE AGONY WE FEEL...
...IS OUR HATRED FOR YOU!
≥HRNK?!≤
YOU UNDERESTIMATED US... ONE LAST TIME... SLAYER OF INNOCENCE!
B-BUT ≥GH/P≤ I HELPED SAVE THAT CONCERT AUDIENCE! WEREN'T THEY INNOCENT?
THEY... Y-YOU... TRY TO CONFUSE US! WE WERE INNOCENT...
... UNTIL YOU DESTROYED US! NOW...
...WE WILL DESTROY YOU!


SSSKRRE
IT WAS TOUGH HOLDING BACK TILL WE GOT YOUR SIGNAL, SPIDER-MAN-- BUT, YOU WERE RIGHT... US JOINING THE BATTLE WOULD HAVE ENDANGERED MORE BY-STANDERS THAN THE WAY YOU PLAYED IT.
NOW, THE ADDED BLAST FROM THIS GUN SHOULD KEEP THE SONICS JUST BELOW A LETHAL LEVEL.
VENOM'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
M...MISTER... F-FANTASTIC...?
YOU...HAD THIS PLANNED... ALL ALONG! BETRAYED US... WITHOUT... C-CONSCIENCE!
WHAT BETTER PROOF... THAT YOU...
...WERE NEVER INNOCENT...!


LATER, AFTER VENOM HAS BEEN SEALED IN A MOBILE RESTRAINT CHAMBER DESIGNED BY REED RICHARDS...
THAT WAS SMART, WEBSLINGER, ASKING US TO BE ALERT FOR YOUR HOMING SIGNAL.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
HMPH!
DID I...?
CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD'VE KEPT HIS WORD!
HEY!
CAP WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HIS WORD! HE'D HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY, A PERFECT SOLUTION!
HE'S A LEGEND!
BUT I'M JUST A MAN!
AND MEN HAVE TO MAKE CHOICES. YEAH, MAKE THEM...
... AND THEN LIVE WITH THEM.


BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING SPIDER-MAN WILL SOON HAVE TO LIVE WITH. FOR AT AN AIRPORT IN ROSTOCK, IN WHAT WAS UNTIL RECENTLY EAST GERMANY...
I'M SCARED!
EASY, DARLING. WE'RE FREE, AND OUR PAPERS ARE IN PERFECT ORDER!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR NOW!
I... I KNOW. BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG! WHAT IF TOO MUCH HAS CHANGED--?
THINK OF IT AS AN ADVENTURE! AFTER ALL, HAVEN'T WE DREAMED OF THIS FOR DECADES?
WELL, YES, OF COURSE! BUT... I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT ONCE WE SET FOOT IN NEW YORK, LIVES WILL BE ALTERED FOREVER!
BOTH OURS...
...AND HIS!
PHOTOGRAPHS BY Peter Parker
Next Issue: IN A SEQUEL TO THE DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN, THE SHOCKER HELPS SPIDEY COUNT DOWN TO HIS 30th ANNIVERSARY! PLUS: MORE OF THE MYSTERIOUS COUPLE FROM PETER PARKER'S PAST! BE HERE!

MARVEL COMICS
SPIDER-MAN
SPECIAL EDITION
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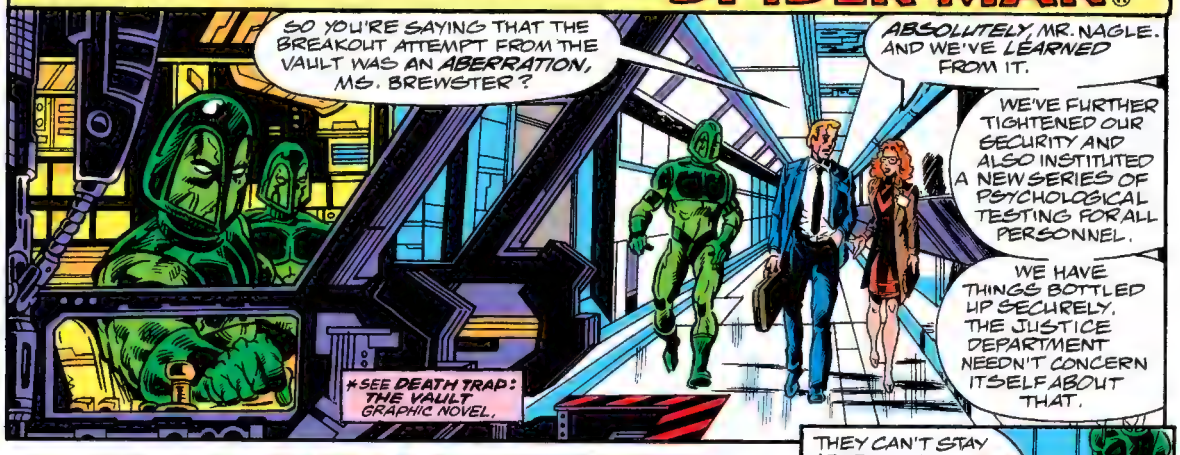
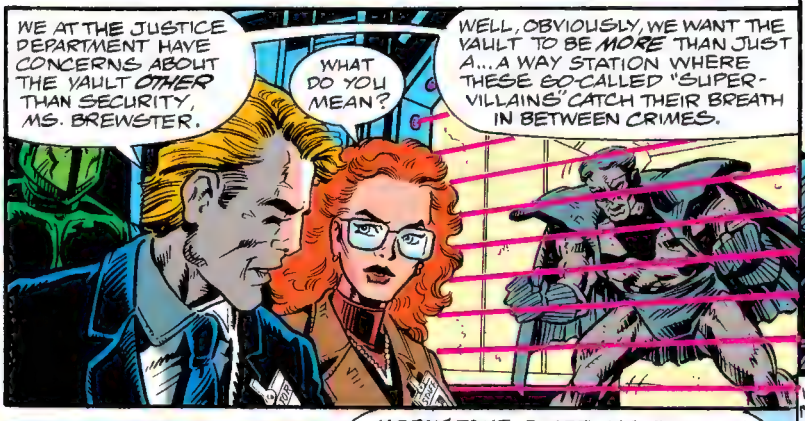
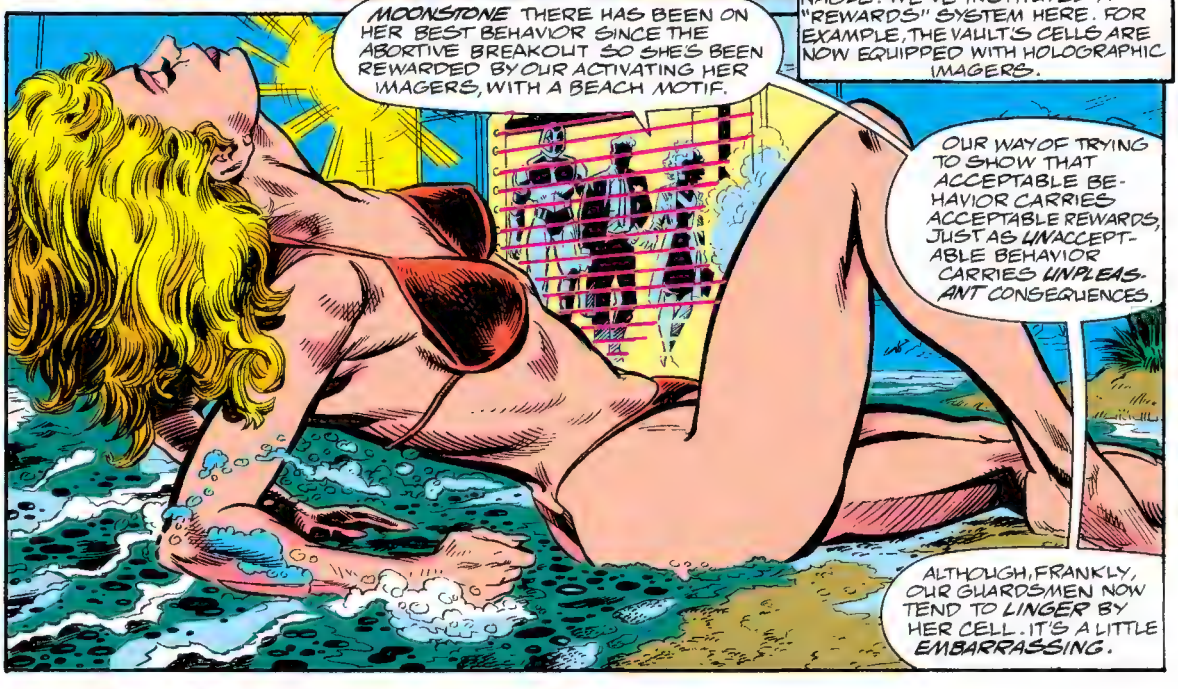
$1.25 US
1
DEC
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GUILTY AS CHARGED!
J. Romita
CRAIG
DAN DAY
THE TRIAL OF VENOM

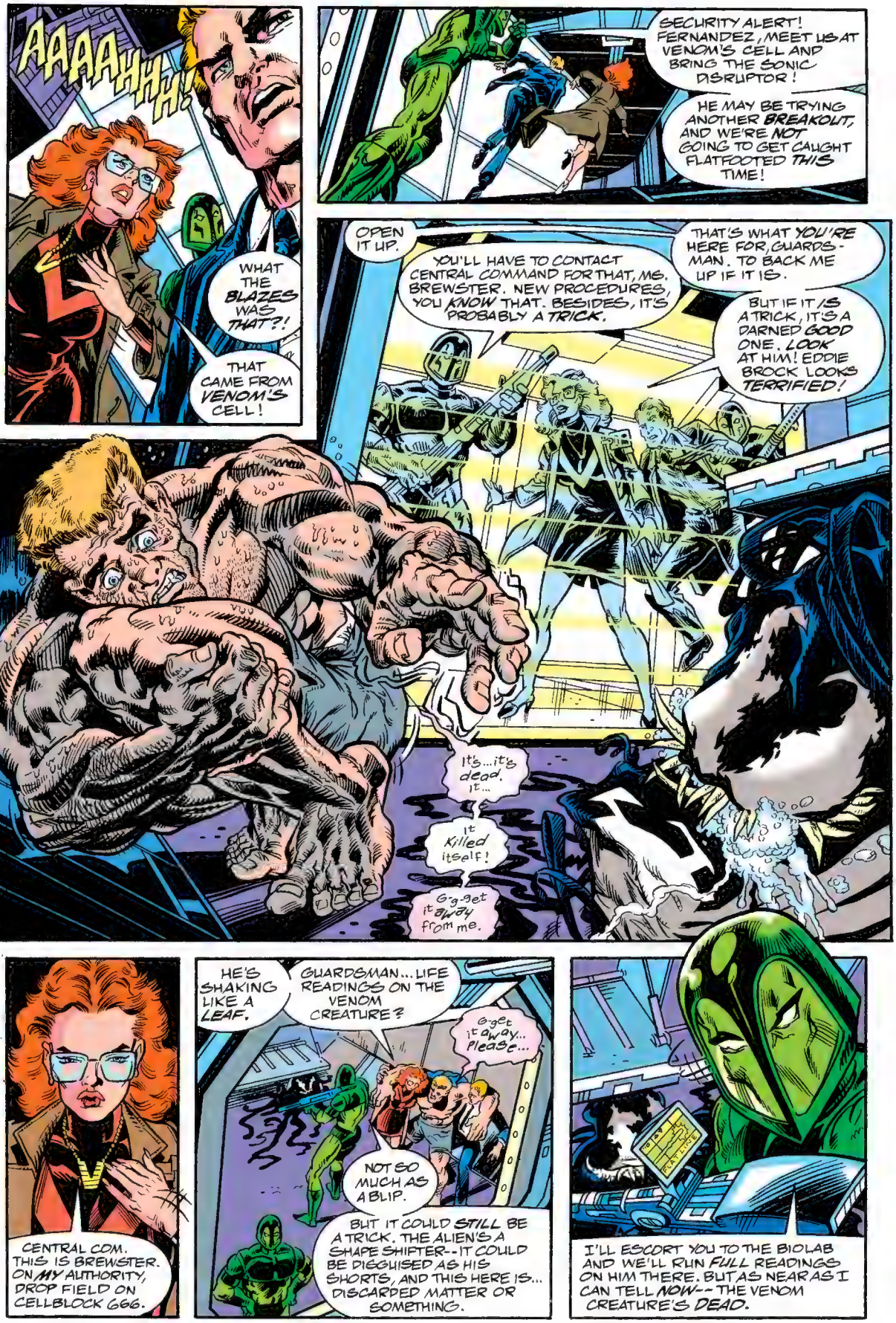
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE! Stan Lee PRESENTS: SPIDER-MAN®

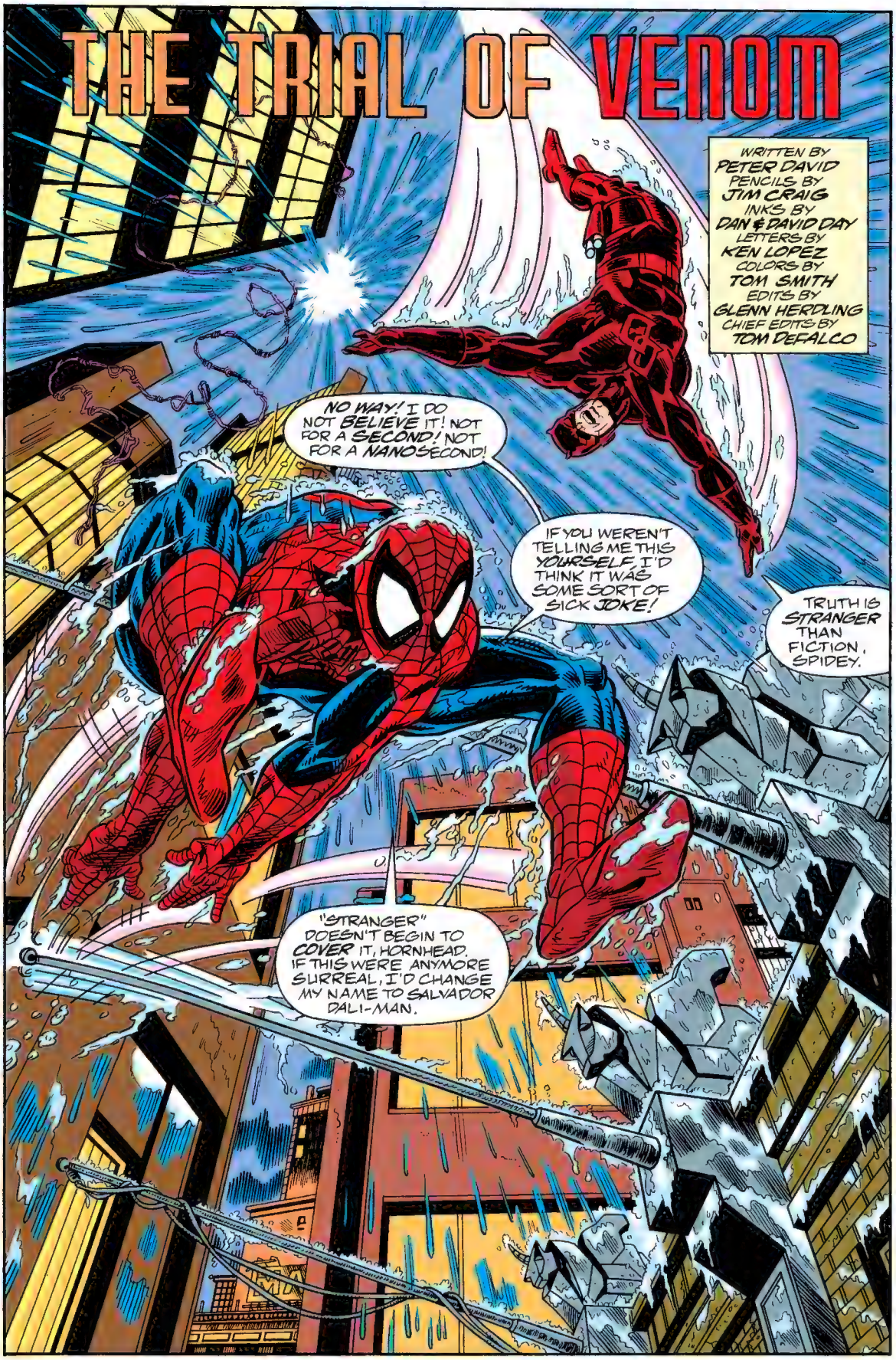

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE BREAKOUT ATTEMPT FROM THE VAULT WAS AN ABERRATION, MS. BREWSTER?
ABSOLUTELY, MR. NAGLE. AND WE'VE LEARNED FROM IT.
WE'VE FURTHER TIGHTENED OUR SECURITY AND ALSO INSTITUTED A NEW SERIES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING FOR ALL PERSONNEL.
WE HAVE THINGS BOTTLED UP SECURELY. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEEDN'T CONCERN ITSELF ABOUT THAT.
*SEE DEATH TRAP: THE VAULT GRAPHIC NOVEL.

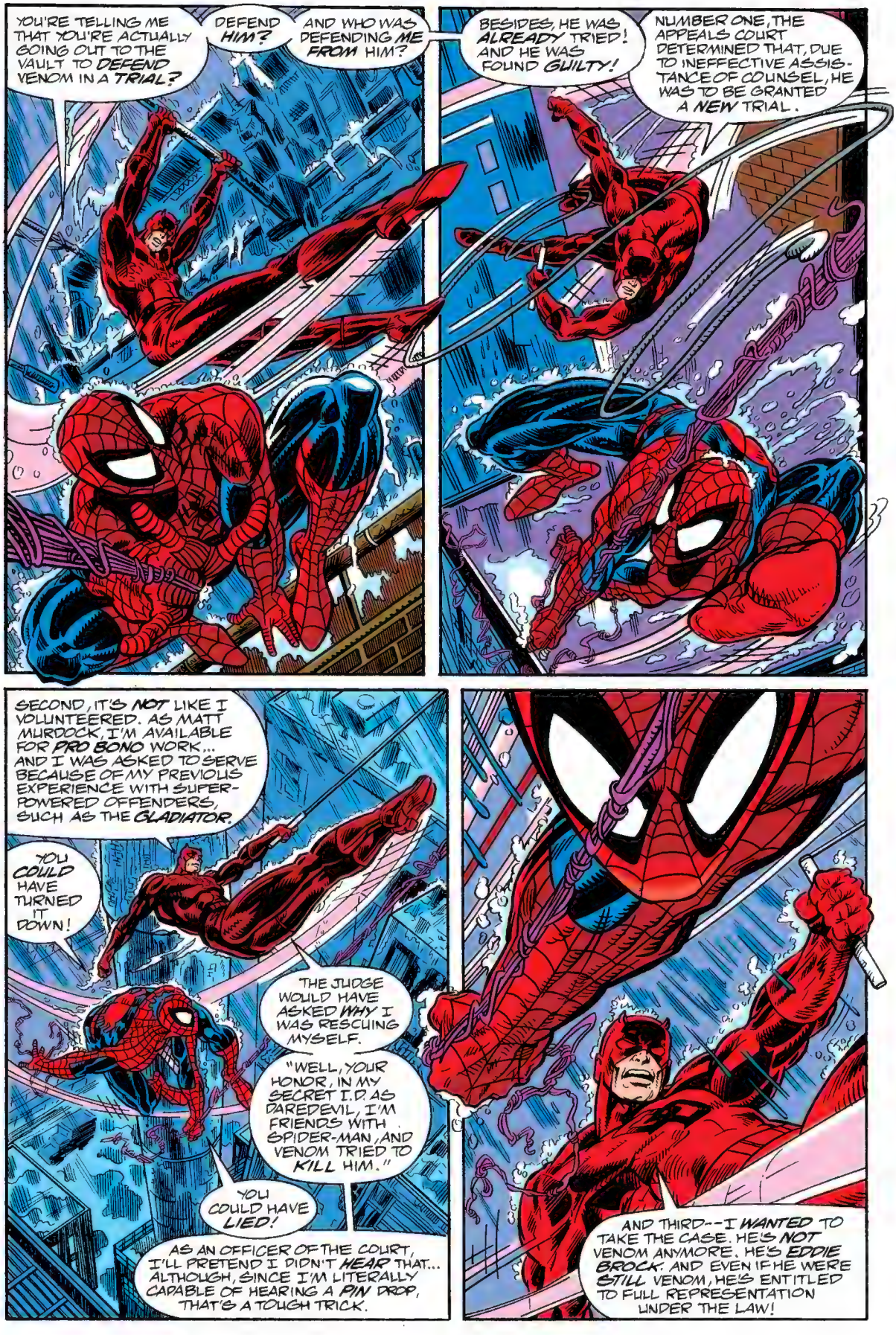

WE AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE VAULT OTHER THAN SECURITY, MS. BREWSTER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, OBVIOUSLY, WE WANT THE VAULT TO BE MORE THAN JUST A...A WAY STATION WHERE THESE SO-CALLED "SUPER-VILLAINS" CATCH THEIR BREATH IN BETWEEN CRIMES.

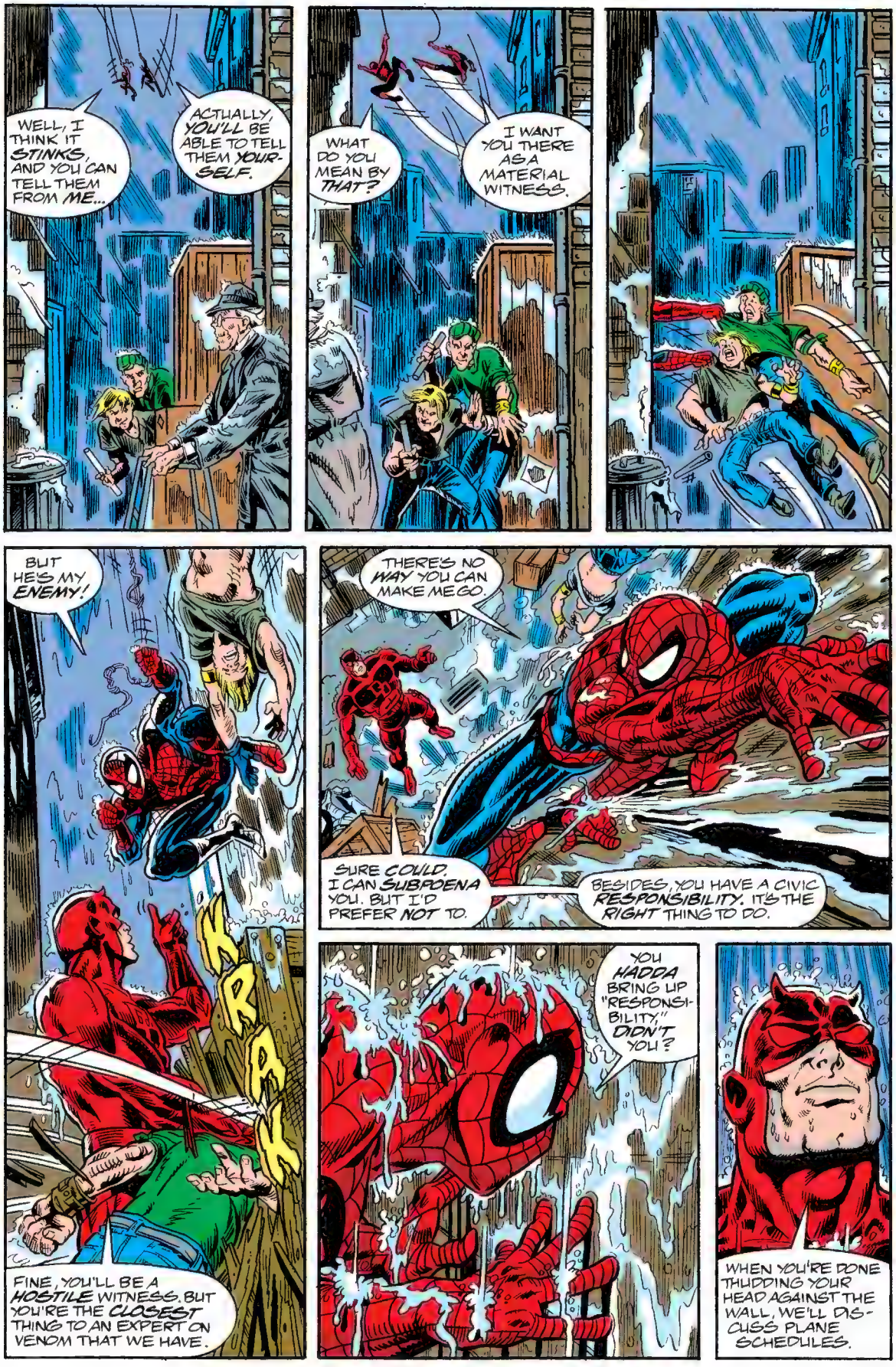
THEY CAN'T STAY "BOTTLED" HERE FOREVER. ARE YOU PEOPLE MAKING ANY ATTEMPT AT REHABILITATION, OR DO YOU JUST KEEP THEM HERE TO ROT?

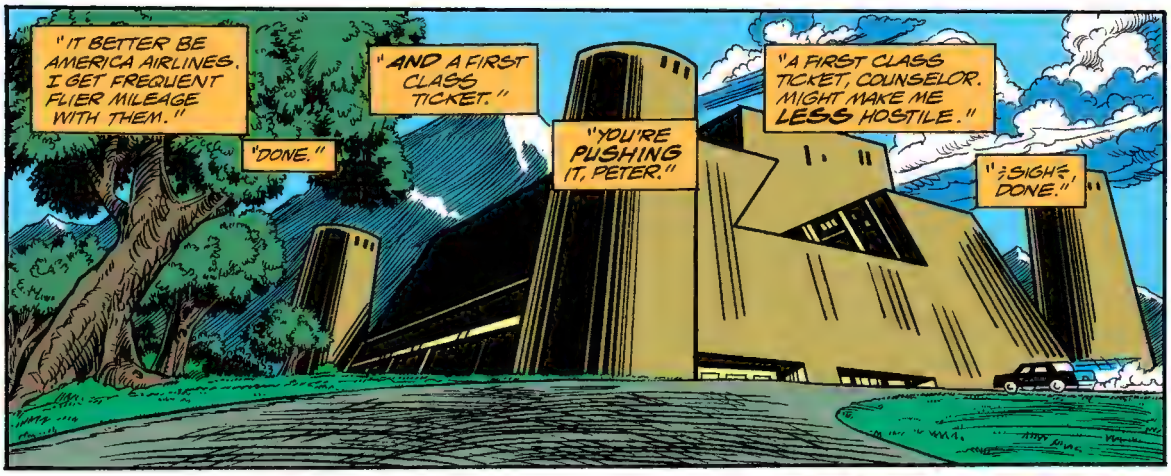

WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF YOU, MR. NAGLE. WE'VE INSTITUTED A "REWARDS" SYSTEM HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE VAULT'S CELLS ARE NOW EQUIPPED WITH HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGERS.
MOONSTONE THERE HAS BEEN ON HER BEST BEHAVIOR SINCE THE ABORTIVE BREAKOUT SO SHE'S BEEN REWARDED BY OUR ACTIVATING HER IMAGERS, WITH A BEACH MOTIF.
OUR WAY OF TRYING TO SHOW THAT ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR CARRIES ACCEPTABLE REWARDS, JUST AS UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR CARRIES UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES.
ALTHOUGH, FRANKLY, OUR GUARDSMEN NOW TEND TO LINGER BY HER CELL. IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.

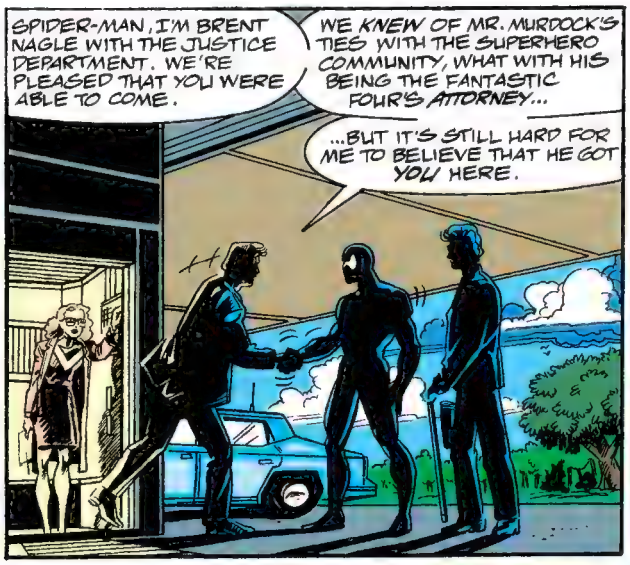

AAAAHHH!
WHAT THE BLAZES WAS THAT?!
THAT CAME FROM VENOM'S CELL!
SECURITY ALERT! FERNANDEZ, MEET US AT VENOM'S CELL AND BRING THE SONIC DISRUPTOR!
HE MAY BE TRYING ANOTHER BREAKOUT, AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET CAUGHT FLATFOOTED THIS TIME!
OPEN IT UP.
YOU'LL HAVE TO CONTACT CENTRAL COMMAND FOR THAT, MS. BREWSTER. NEW PROCEDURES, YOU KNOW THAT. BESIDES, IT'S PROBABLY A TRICK.
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR, GUARDSMAN. TO BACK ME UP IF IT IS.
BUT IF IT IS A TRICK, IT'S A DARNED GOOD ONE. LOOK AT HIM! EDDIE BROCK LOOKS TERRIFIED!
It's...it's dead. It...
It killed itself!
G-g-get it away from me.
CENTRAL COM. THIS IS BREWSTER. ON MY AUTHORITY, DROP FIELD ON CELLBLOCK 666.
HE'S SHAKING LIKE A LEAF.
GUARDSMAN... LIFE READINGS ON THE VENOM CREATURE?
G-get it away... please...
NOT SO MUCH AS A BLIP.
BUT IT COULD STILL BE A TRICK. THE ALIEN'S A SHAPE SHIFTER--IT COULD BE DISGUISED AS HIS SHORTS, AND THIS HERE IS... DISCARDED MATTER OR SOMETHING.
I'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE BIOLAB AND WE'LL RUN FULL READINGS ON HIM THERE. BUT AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL NOW--THE VENOM CREATURE'S DEAD.

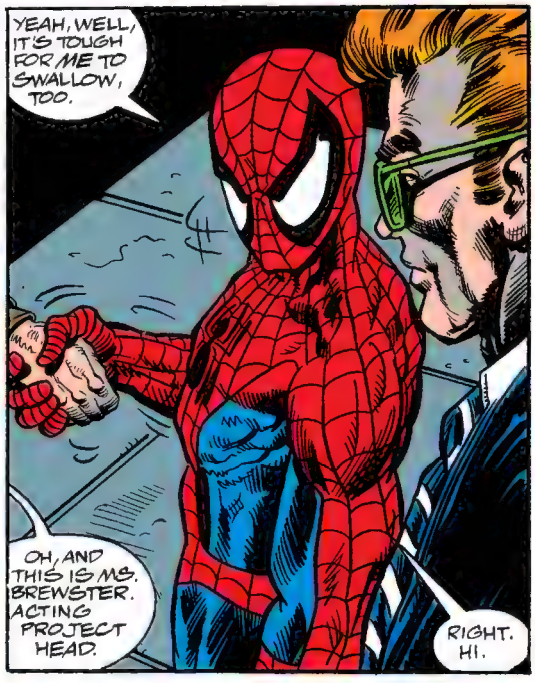

THE TRIAL OF VENOM
WRITTEN BY
PETER DAVID
PENCILS BY
JIM CRAIG
INKS BY
DAN & DAVID DAY
LETTERS BY
KEN LOPEZ
COLORS BY
TOM SMITH
EDITS BY
GLENN HERDLING
CHIEF EDITS BY
TOM DEFALCO
NO WAY! I DO NOT BELIEVE IT! NOT FOR A SECOND! NOT FOR A NANOSECOND!
IF YOU WEREN'T TELLING ME THIS YOURSELF, I'D THINK IT WAS SOME SORT OF SICK JOKE!
TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, SPIDEY.
"STRANGER" DOESN'T BEGIN TO COVER IT, HORNHEAD. IF THIS WERE ANYMORE SURREAL, I'D CHANGE MY NAME TO SALVADOR DALI-MAN.

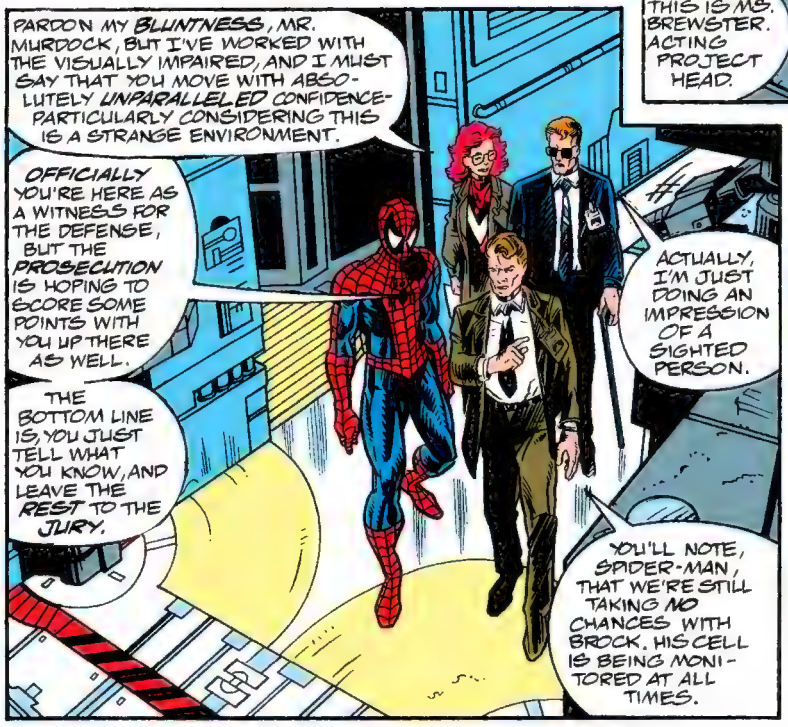

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING OUT TO THE VAULT TO DEFEND VENOM IN A TRIAL?
DEFEND HIM?
AND WHO WAS DEFENDING ME FROM HIM?
BESIDES, HE WAS ALREADY TRIED! AND HE WAS FOUND GUILTY!
NUMBER ONE, THE APPEALS COURT DETERMINED THAT, DUE TO INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL, HE WAS TO BE GRANTED A NEW TRIAL.
SECOND, IT'S NOT LIKE I VOLUNTEERED. AS MATT MURDOCK, I'M AVAILABLE FOR PRO BONO WORK... AND I WAS ASKED TO SERVE BECAUSE OF MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SUPER-POWERED OFFENDERS, SUCH AS THE GLADIATOR.
YOU COULD HAVE TURNED IT DOWN!
THE JUDGE WOULD HAVE ASKED WHY I WAS RESCUING MYSELF.
"WELL, YOUR HONOR, IN MY SECRET I.D. AS DAREDEVIL, I'M FRIENDS WITH SPIDER-MAN, AND VENOM TRIED TO KILL HIM."
YOU COULD HAVE LIED!
AS AN OFFICER OF THE COURT, I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT... ALTHOUGH, SINCE I'M LITERALLY CAPABLE OF HEARING A PIN DROP, THAT'S A TOUGH TRICK.
AND THIRD--I WANTED TO TAKE THE CASE. HE'S NOT VENOM ANYMORE. HE'S EDDIE BROCK. AND EVEN IF HE WERE STILL VENOM, HE'S ENTITLED TO FULL REPRESENTATION UNDER THE LAW!

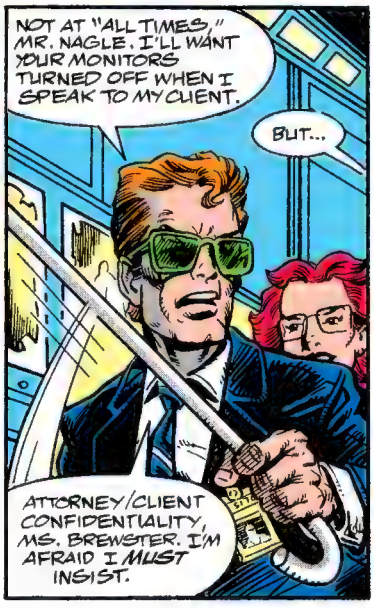

WELL, I THINK IT STINKS, AND YOU CAN TELL THEM FROM ME...
ACTUALLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TELL THEM YOURSELF.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I WANT YOU THERE AS A MATERIAL WITNESS.
BUT HE'S MY ENEMY!
KRAK
FINE, YOU'LL BE A HOSTILE WITNESS. BUT YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING TO AN EXPERT ON VENOM THAT WE HAVE.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE ME GO.
SURE COULD. I CAN SUBPOENA YOU. BUT I'D PREFER NOT TO.
BESIDES, YOU HAVE A CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
YOU HADDA BRING UP "RESPONSIBILITY," DIDN'T YOU?
WHEN YOU'RE DONE THUDDING YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL, WE'LL DISCUSS PLANE SCHEDULES.

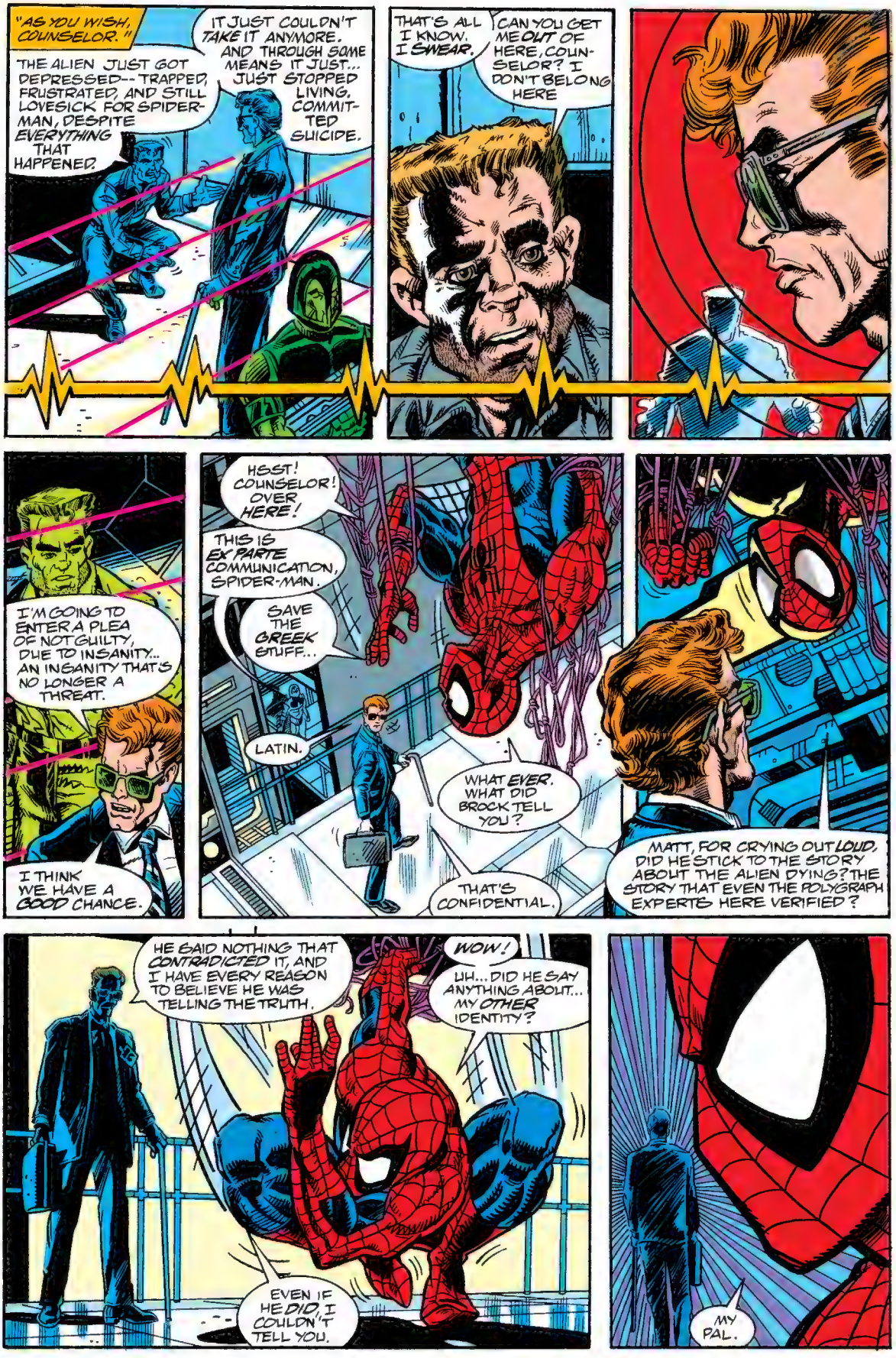

"IT BETTER BE AMERICA AIRLINES. I GET FREQUENT FLIER MILEAGE WITH THEM."
"DONE."
"AND A FIRST CLASS TICKET."
"YOU'RE PUSHING IT, PETER."
"A FIRST CLASS TICKET, COUNSELOR. MIGHT MAKE ME LESS HOSTILE."
";SIGH;, DONE."


SPIDER-MAN, I'M BRENT NAGLE WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. WE'RE PLEASED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO COME.
WE KNEW OF MR. MURDOCK'S TIES WITH THE SUPERHERO COMMUNITY, WHAT WITH HIS BEING THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S ATTORNEY...
...BUT IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE GOT YOU HERE.

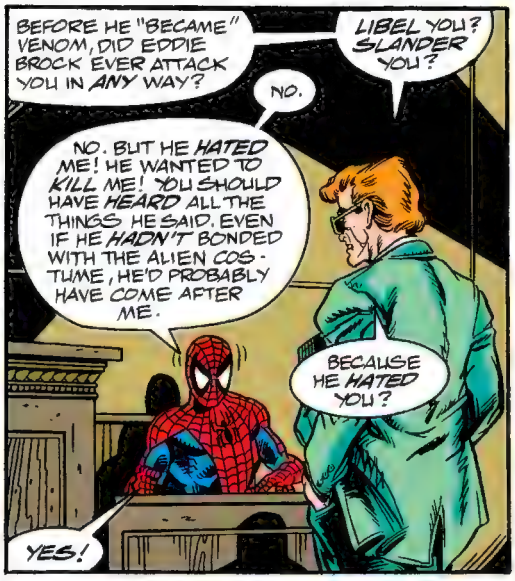

YEAH, WELL, IT'S TOUGH FOR ME TO SWALLOW, TOO.
OH, AND THIS IS MS. BREWSTER. ACTING PROJECT HEAD.
RIGHT. HI.


PARDON MY BLUNTNESS, MR. MURDOCK, BUT I'VE WORKED WITH THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, AND I MUST SAY THAT YOU MOVE WITH ABSOLUTELY UNPARALLELED CONFIDENCE- PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THIS IS A STRANGE ENVIRONMENT.
OFFICIALLY YOU'RE HERE AS A WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE, BUT THE PROSECUTION IS HOPING TO SCORE SOME POINTS WITH YOU UP THERE AS WELL.
THE BOTTOM LINE IS, YOU JUST TELL WHAT YOU KNOW, AND LEAVE THE REST TO THE JURY.
ACTUALLY, I'M JUST DOING AN IMPRESSION OF A SIGHTED PERSON.
YOU'LL NOTE, SPIDER-MAN, THAT WE'RE STILL TAKING NO CHANCES WITH BROCK. HIS CELL IS BEING MONITORED AT ALL TIMES.


NOT AT "ALL TIMES," MR. NAGLE. I'LL WANT YOUR MONITORS TURNED OFF WHEN I SPEAK TO MY CLIENT.
BUT...
ATTORNEY/CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY, MS. BREWSTER. I'M AFRAID I MUST INSIST.

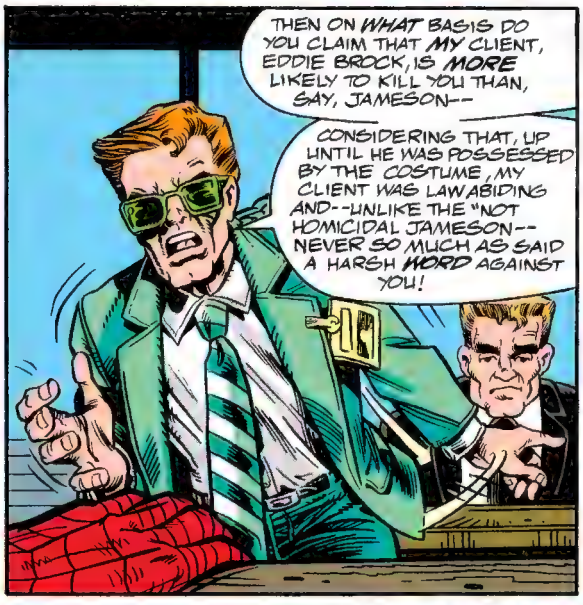

"AS YOU WISH, COUNSELOR."
IT JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. AND THROUGH SOME MEANS IT JUST... JUST STOPPED LIVING. COMMITTED SUICIDE.
THE ALIEN JUST GOT DEPRESSED-- TRAPPED, FRUSTRATED, AND STILL LOVESICK FOR SPIDER-MAN, DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW. I SWEAR.
CAN YOU GET ME OUT OF HERE, COUNSELOR? I DON'T BELONG HERE
I'M GOING TO ENTER A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY, DUE TO INSANITY... AN INSANITY THAT'S NO LONGER A THREAT.
I THINK WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE.
HSST! COUNSELOR! OVER HERE!
THIS IS EX PARTE COMMUNICATION, SPIDER-MAN.
SAVE THE GREEK STUFF...
LATIN.
WHAT EVER. WHAT DID BROCK TELL YOU?
THAT'S CONFIDENTIAL.
MATT, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, DID HE STICK TO THE STORY ABOUT THE ALIEN DYING? THE STORY THAT EVEN THE POLYGRAPH EXPERTS HERE VERIFIED?
HE SAID NOTHING THAT CONTRADICTED IT, AND I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH.
WOW!
UH... DID HE SAY ANYTHING ABOUT... MY OTHER IDENTITY?
EVEN IF HE DID, I COULDN'T TELL YOU.
MY PAL.

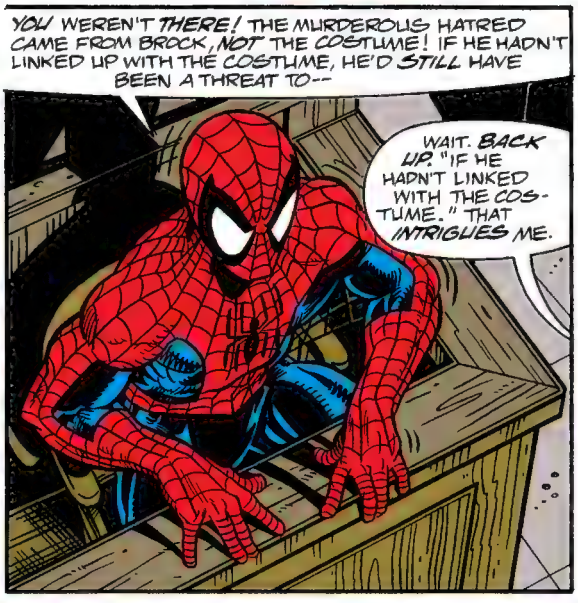
DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH, SO HELP YOU GOD?
YEAH.
BUT FOR THE RECORD, I LOOK JUST LIKE TOM CRUISE.
HE CRAWLED A WALL WHILE LIFTING AN ARMORED VEHICLE YOUR HONOR. WE'RE CONVINCED.
BEFORE WE BEGIN, I WISH TO DOUBLE-CHECK THAT BOTH ATTORNEYS ARE COMPLETELY SATISFIED THAT THIS... GENTLEMAN... IS THE BONA FIDE SPIDER-MAN, RATHER THAN, SAY, TOM CRUISE IN A COSTUME?
SIR, WOULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE FIRST TIME YOU ENCOUNTERED THE INDIVIDUAL CALLED "VENOM?"
WELL, HE'D BEEN STALKING ME FOR SOME TIME. FINALLY IT LED TO A CONFRONTATION, AND HE TRIED TO KILL ME.
I MANAGED TO BEAT BROCK... JUST.
OBJECTION. WITNESS IS BEING ASKED TO TESTIFY AS TO THE DEFENDANT'S STATE OF MIND.
VENOM WAS MASKED. WHY DID YOU SAY "BROCK?"
YOUR HONOR, THERE'S NO ONE MORE QUALIFIED TO SPEAK TO "VENOM'S" STATE OF MIND THAN SPIDER-MAN.
I SAW HIM UNMASKED. AND I RECOGNIZED HIM FROM HIS PICTURE THAT ALWAYS RAN WITH HIS GLOBE COLUMN.
IN THESE PROCEEDINGS I TEND TO ALLOW A BIT MORE LATITUDE THAN USUAL. WITNESS MAY ANSWER.
DID YOU TELL HIM YOU KNEW HIM?
UH... I BELIEVE HE MEANT HIS REPUTATION WAS RUINED, BECAUSE OF THE SIN-EATER SNAFU.
YEAH. I SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "YOU'RE EDDIE BROCK!"
WHAT WAS HIS RESPONSE?
HE SAID, "I USED TO BE EDDIE BROCK."
COULD HE ALSO HAVE MEANT THAT HE DIDN'T CONSIDER HIMSELF TO BE EDDIE BROCK. THAT "EDDIE BROCK" WAS TOTALLY SUBLIMATED TO THE DESIRES OF THE ALIEN?
I... GUESS SO. YEAH. BUT...


BEFORE HE "BECAME" VENOM, DID EDDIE BROCK EVER ATTACK YOU IN ANY WAY?
LIBEL YOU? SLANDER YOU?
NO.
NO. BUT HE HATED ME! HE WANTED TO KILL ME! YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD ALL THE THINGS HE SAID. EVEN IF HE HADN'T BONDED WITH THE ALIEN COSTUME, HE'D PROBABLY HAVE COME AFTER ME.
BECAUSE HE HATED YOU?
YES!

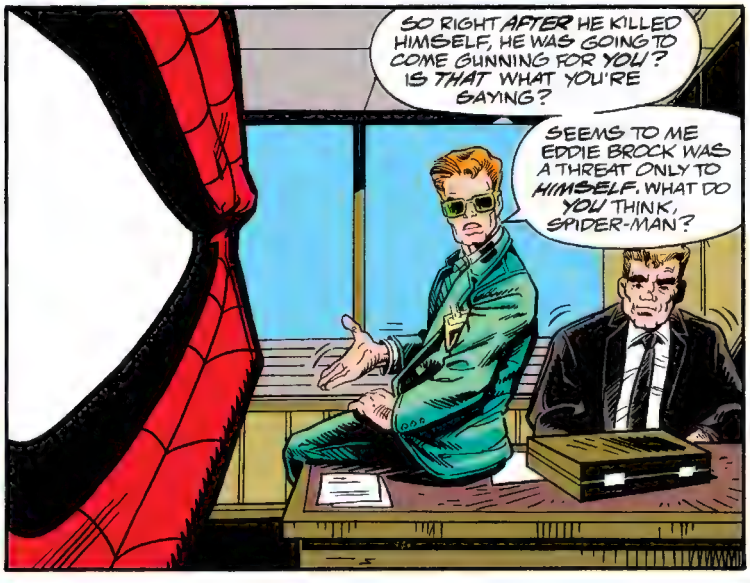
JUDGING BY HIS EDITORIALS AND PAST ACTIONS, DOES J. JONAH JAMESON, THE PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE, HATE YOU?
I'D SAY SO, YEAH.
DOES HE TRY TO KILL YOU!
WELL... NO. HE'S HARASSED ME--SOMETIMES WITH ALMOST DEADLY RESULTS--BUT HE'S NOT HOMICIDAL.

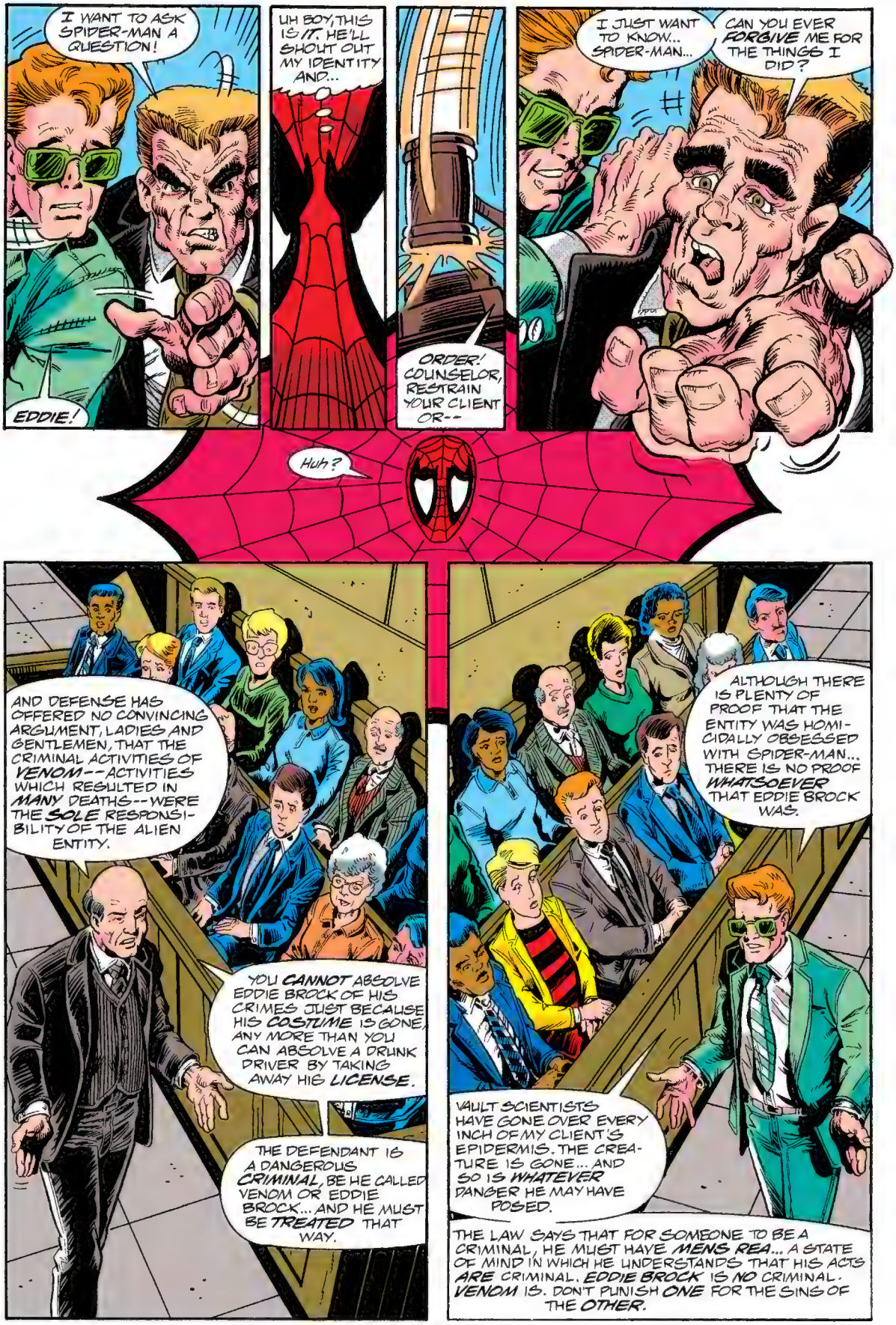
SO SOMEONE HATING YOU ISN'T THE EQUIVALENT OF SOMEONE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO KILL YOU.
WELL... I GUESS NOT.

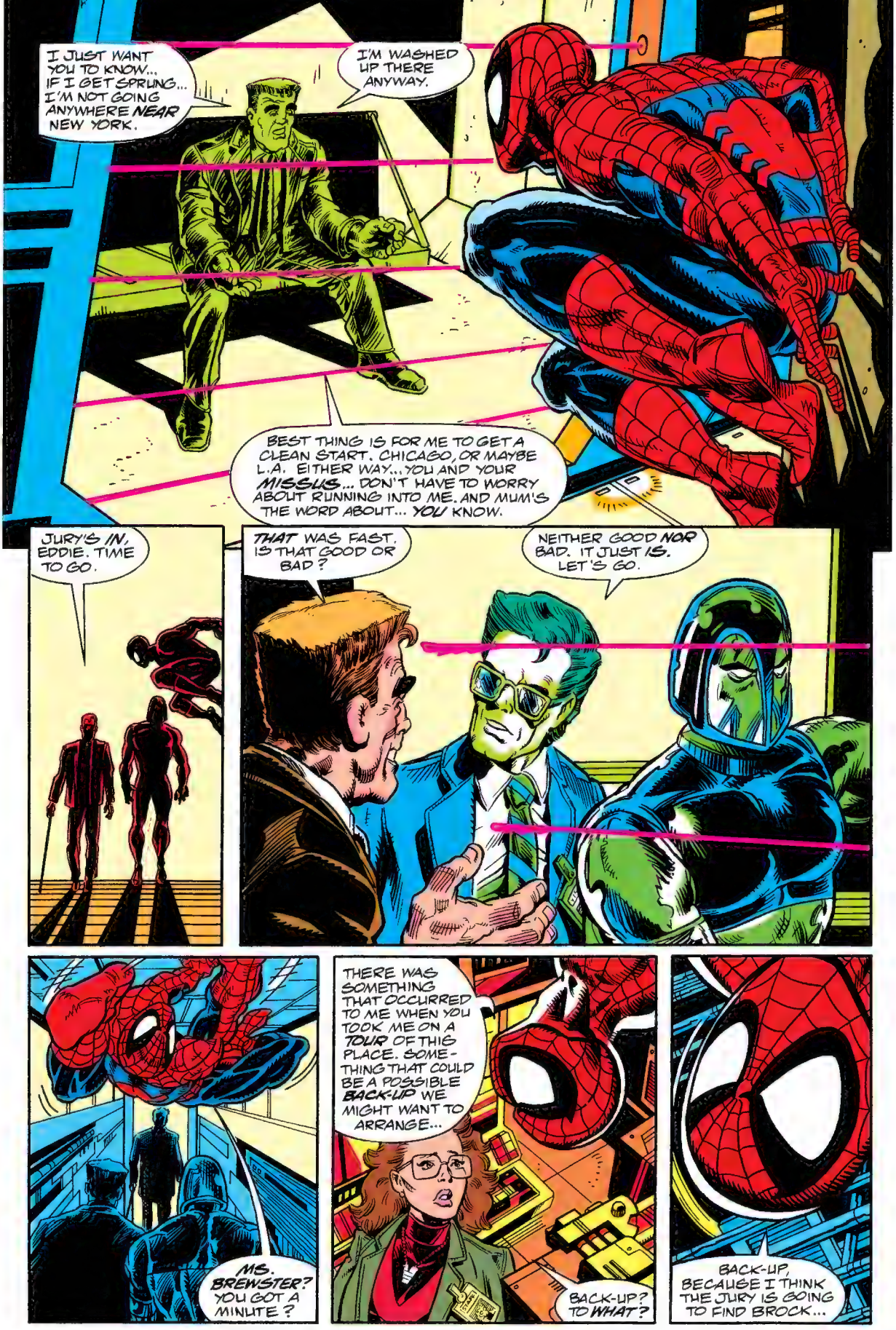

THEN ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU CLAIM THAT MY CLIENT, EDDIE BROCK, IS MORE LIKELY TO KILL YOU THAN, SAY, JAMESON--
CONSIDERING THAT, UP UNTIL HE WAS POSSESSED BY THE COSTUME, MY CLIENT WAS LAWABIDING AND--UNLIKE THE "NOT HOMICIDAL JAMESON"--NEVER SO MUCH AS SAID A HARSH WORD AGAINST YOU!

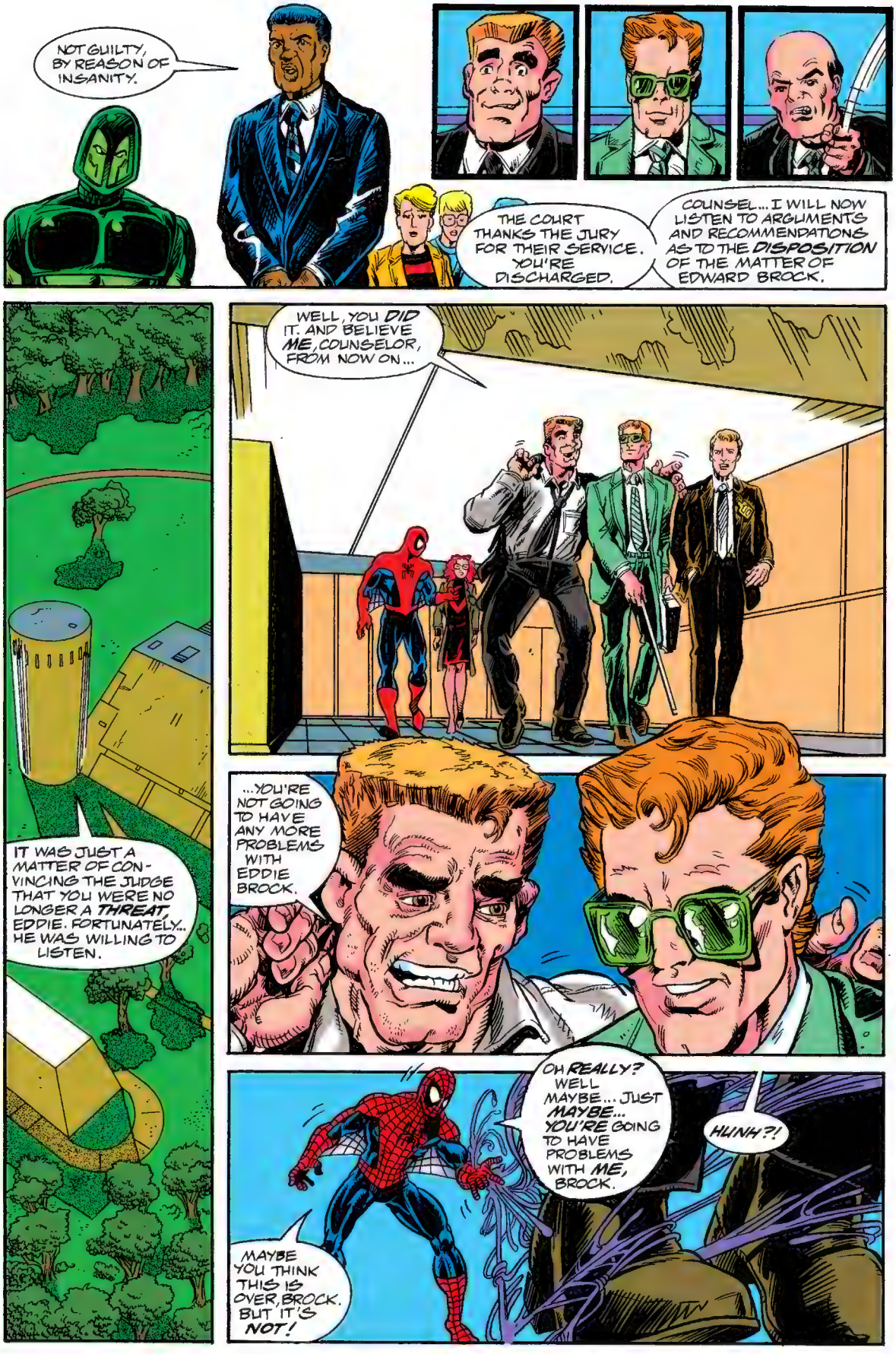

YOU WEREN'T THERE! THE MURDEROUS HATRED CAME FROM BROCK, NOT THE COSTUME! IF HE HADN'T LINKED UP WITH THE COSTUME, HE'D STILL HAVE BEEN A THREAT TO--
WAIT. BACK UP. "IF HE HADN'T LINKED WITH THE COSTUME." THAT INTRIGUES ME.

DID EDDIE BROCK TELL YOU WHAT HE WAS PLANNING TO DO RIGHT BEFORE THE ALIEN TOOK HIM OVER?
HE... UH...
HE SAID HE WAS... UH... PLANNING TO, UH...
...TO KILL HIMSELF.

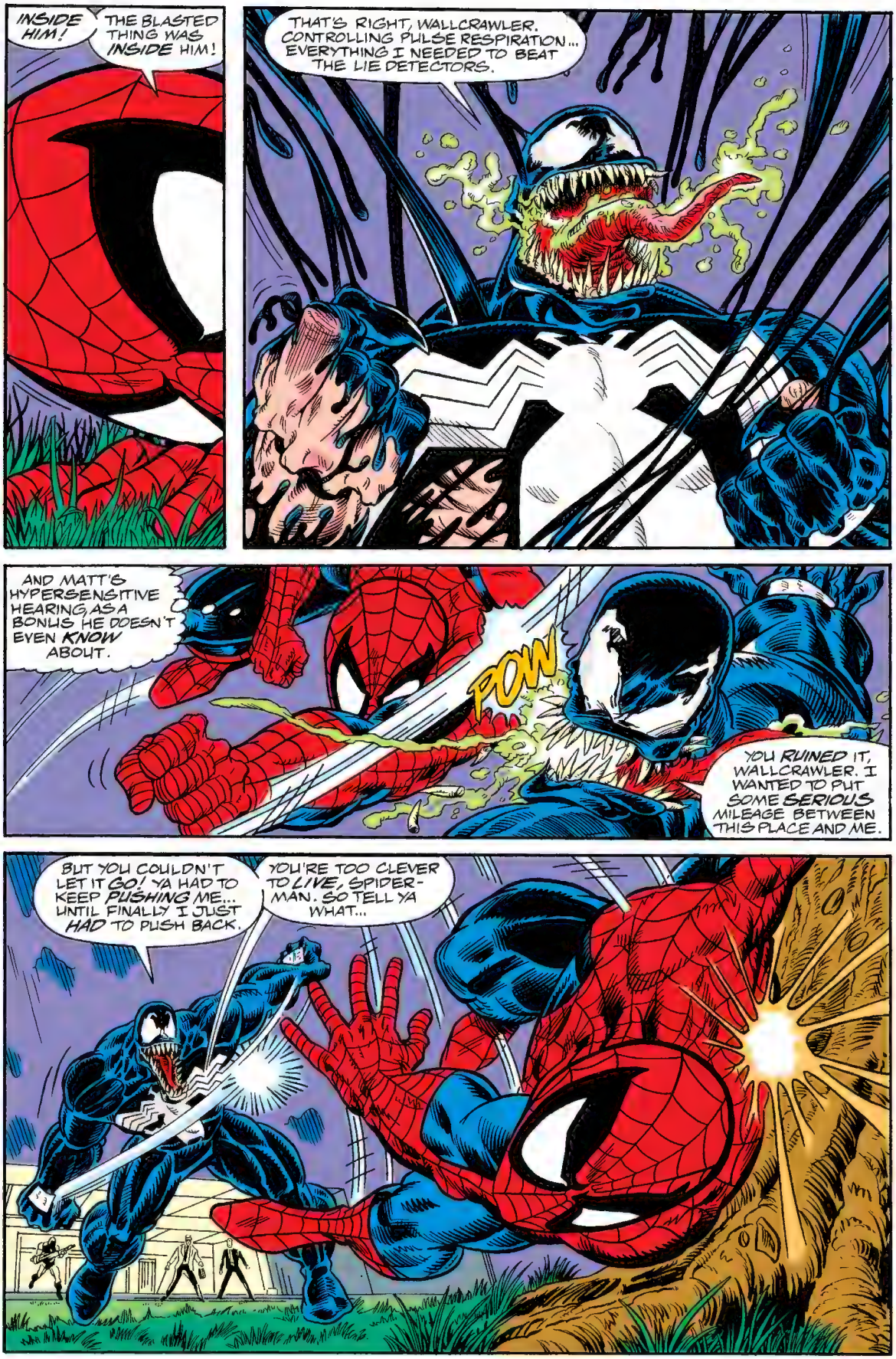

SO RIGHT AFTER HE KILLED HIMSELF, HE WAS GOING TO COME GUNNING FOR YOU? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
SEEMS TO ME EDDIE BROCK WAS A THREAT ONLY TO HIMSELF. WHAT DO YOU THINK, SPIDER-MAN?

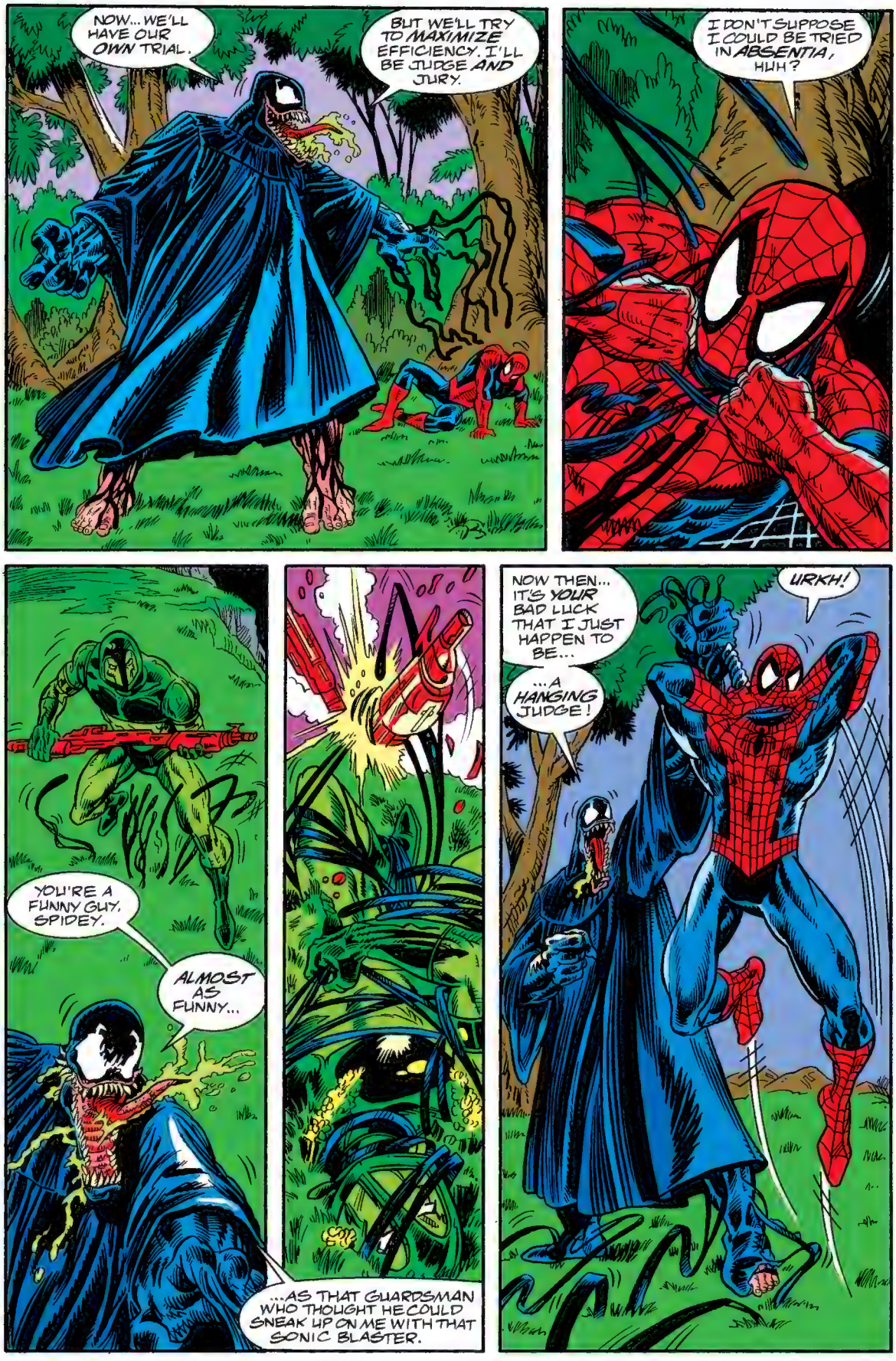

I WANT TO ASK SPIDER-MAN A QUESTION!
EDDIE!
UH BOY, THIS IS IT. HE'LL SHOUT OUT MY IDENTITY AND...
ORDER! COUNSELOR, RESTRAIN YOUR CLIENT OR--
Huh?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW... SPIDER-MAN...
CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME FOR THE THINGS I DID?
AND DEFENSE HAS OFFERED NO CONVINCING ARGUMENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF VENOM--ACTIVITIES WHICH RESULTED IN MANY DEATHS--WERE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ALIEN ENTITY.
YOU CANNOT ABSOLVE EDDIE BROCK OF HIS CRIMES JUST BECAUSE HIS COSTUME IS GONE, ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN ABSOLVE A DRUNK DRIVER BY TAKING AWAY HIS LICENSE.
THE DEFENDANT IS A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL, BE HE CALLED VENOM OR EDDIE BROCK... AND HE MUST BE TREATED THAT WAY.
ALTHOUGH THERE IS PLENTY OF PROOF THAT THE ENTITY WAS HOMICIDALLY OBSESSED WITH SPIDER-MAN... THERE IS NO PROOF WHATSOEVER THAT EDDIE BROCK WAS.
VAULT SCIENTISTS HAVE GONE OVER EVERY INCH OF MY CLIENT'S EPIDERMIS. THE CREATURE IS GONE... AND SO IS WHATEVER DANGER HE MAY HAVE POSED.
THE LAW SAYS THAT FOR SOMEONE TO BE A CRIMINAL, HE MUST HAVE MENS REA... A STATE OF MIND IN WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS ACTS ARE CRIMINAL. EDDIE BROCK IS NO CRIMINAL. VENOM IS. DON'T PUNISH ONE FOR THE SINS OF THE OTHER.

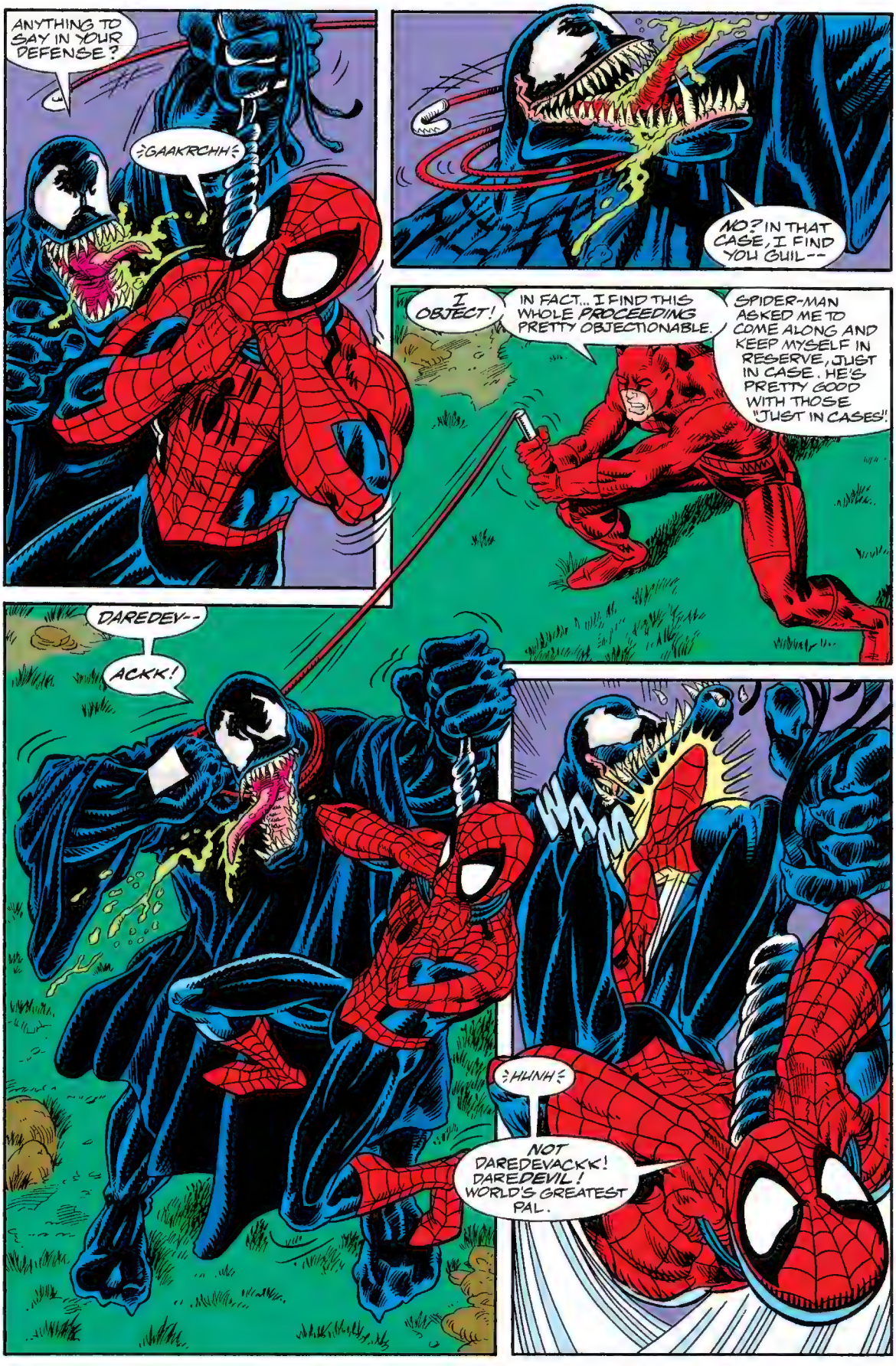

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW... IF I GET SPRUNG... I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR NEW YORK.
I'M WASHED UP THERE ANYWAY.
BEST THING IS FOR ME TO GET A CLEAN START. CHICAGO, OR MAYBE L.A. EITHER WAY... YOU AND YOUR MISSUS... DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RUNNING INTO ME. AND MUM'S THE WORD ABOUT... YOU KNOW.
JURY'S IN, EDDIE. TIME TO GO.
THAT WAS FAST. IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?
NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD. IT JUST IS. LET'S GO.
MS. BREWSTER? YOU GOT A MINUTE?
THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED TO ME WHEN YOU TOOK ME ON A TOUR OF THIS PLACE. SOMETHING THAT COULD BE A POSSIBLE BACK-UP WE MIGHT WANT TO ARRANGE...
BACK-UP? TO WHAT?
BACK-UP, BECAUSE I THINK THE JURY IS GOING TO FIND BROCK...

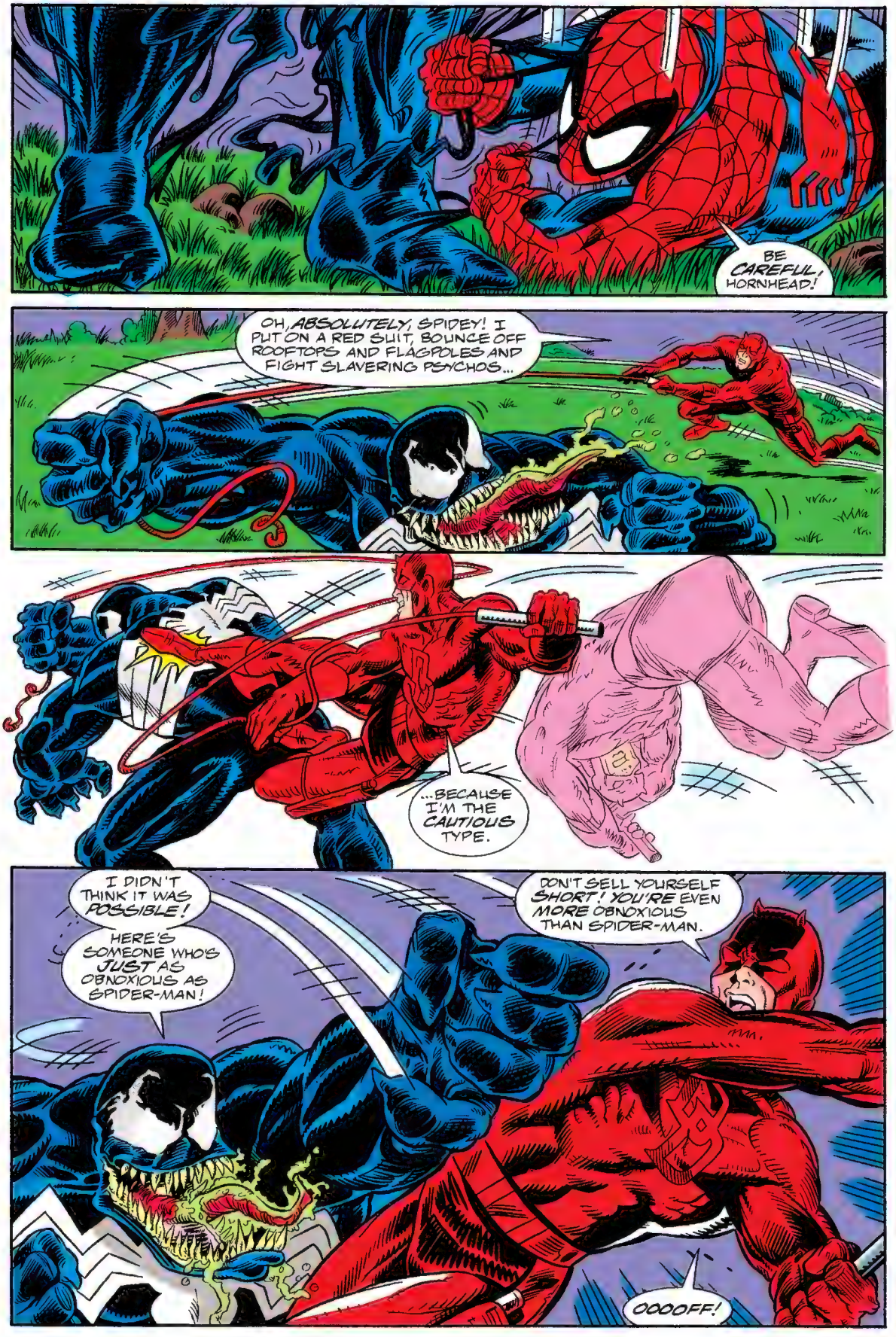

NOT GUILTY, BY REASON OF INSANITY.
THE COURT THANKS THE JURY FOR THEIR SERVICE. YOU'RE DISCHARGED.
COUNSEL... I WILL NOW LISTEN TO ARGUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE MATTER OF EDWARD BROCK.
IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF CONVINCING THE JUDGE THAT YOU WERE NO LONGER A THREAT, EDDIE. FORTUNATELY... HE WAS WILLING TO LISTEN.
WELL, YOU DID IT. AND BELIEVE ME, COUNSELOR, FROM NOW ON...
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY MORE PROBLEMS WITH EDDIE BROCK.
OH REALLY? WELL MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ME, BROCK.
HUNH?!
MAYBE YOU THINK THIS IS OVER, BROCK. BUT IT'S NOT!

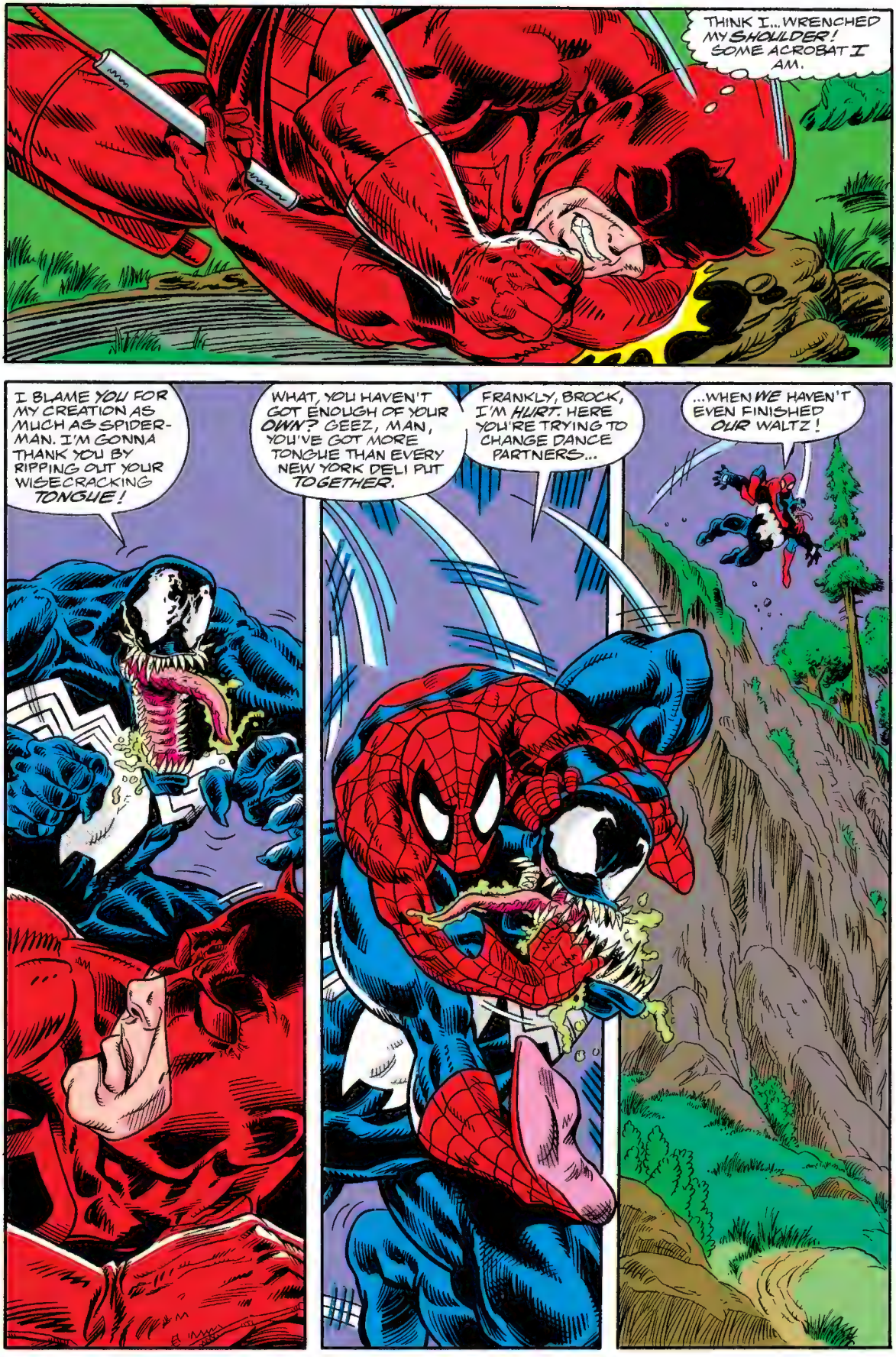
YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH? YOU'RE NOTHING, BROCK. WHAT YOU ARE IS SCUM, AND I'M GOING TO SCRUB YOU AWAY!
SPIDER-MAN, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
STAY BACK, MATT. I JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE.
YOU'RE A LOSER, BROCK. PATHETIC, JEALOUS AND ENVIOUS, AND YOU'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO--
SHUT UP!!
UNHH! I KNEW IT! IT'S A TRICK! NO ONE NORMAL COULD TAG ME LIKE THAT!
THE ALIEN'S STILL ALIVE!!
BLEAGH!

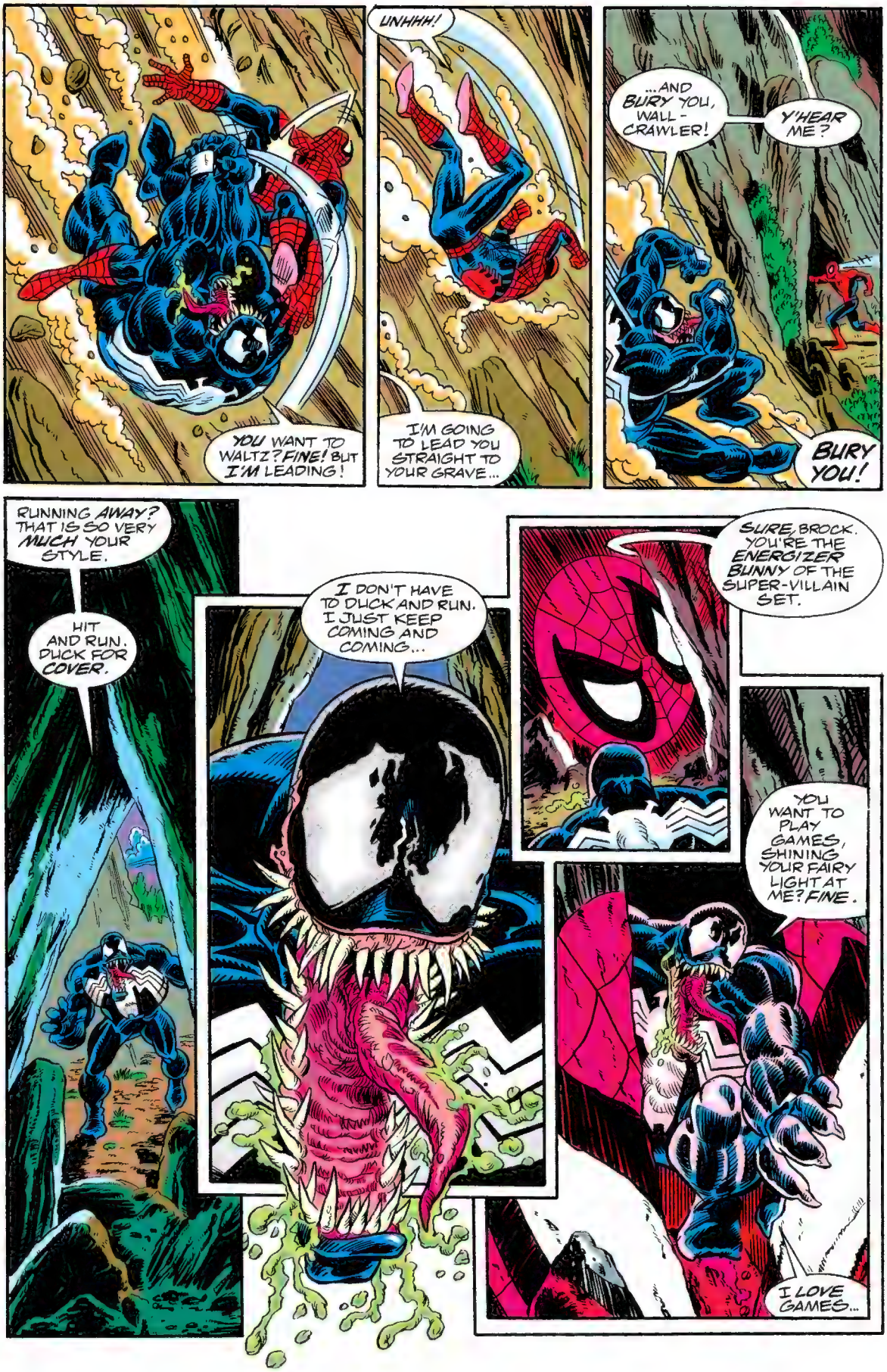

INSIDE HIM!
THE BLASTED THING WAS INSIDE HIM!
THAT'S RIGHT, WALLCRAWLER. CONTROLLING PULSE RESPIRATION... EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO BEAT THE LIE DETECTORS.
AND MATT'S HYPERSENSITIVE HEARING AS A BONUS HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.
POW
YOU RUINED IT, WALLCRAWLER. I WANTED TO PUT SOME SERIOUS MILEAGE BETWEEN THIS PLACE AND ME.
BUT YOU COULDN'T LET IT GO! YA HAD TO KEEP PUSHING ME... UNTIL FINALLY I JUST HAD TO PUSH BACK.
YOU'RE TOO CLEVER TO LIVE, SPIDER-MAN. SO TELL YA WHAT...
BOOM

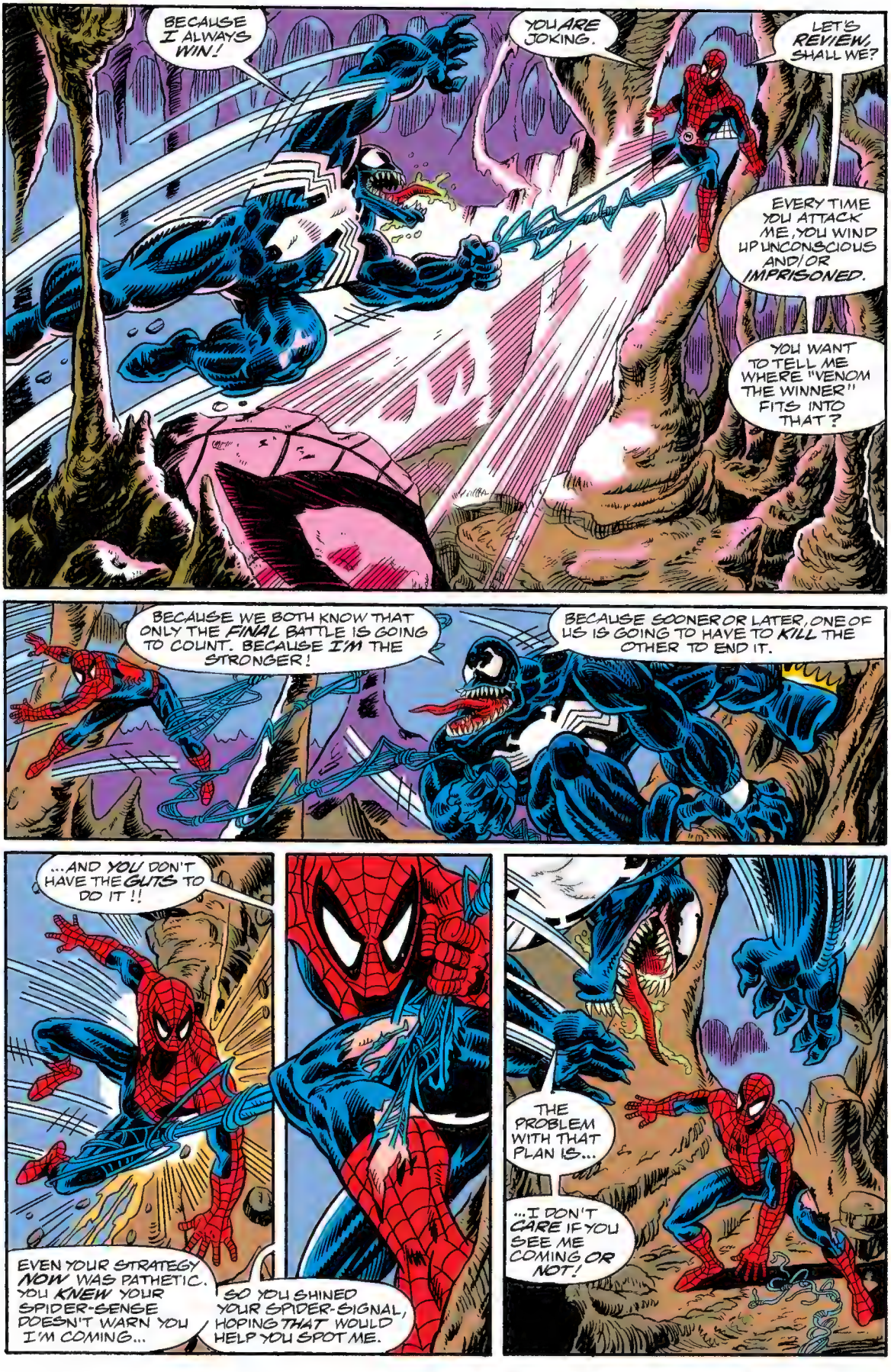

NOW... WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN TRIAL.
BUT WE'LL TRY TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY. I'LL BE JUDGE AND JURY.
I DON'T SUPPOSE I COULD BE TRIED IN ABSENTIA, HUH?
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, SPIDEY.
ALMOST AS FUNNY...
...AS THAT GUARDSMAN WHO THOUGHT HE COULD SNEAK UP ON ME WITH THAT SONIC BLASTER.
NOW THEN... IT'S YOUR BAD LUCK THAT I JUST HAPPEN TO BE...
...A HANGING JUDGE!
URKH!

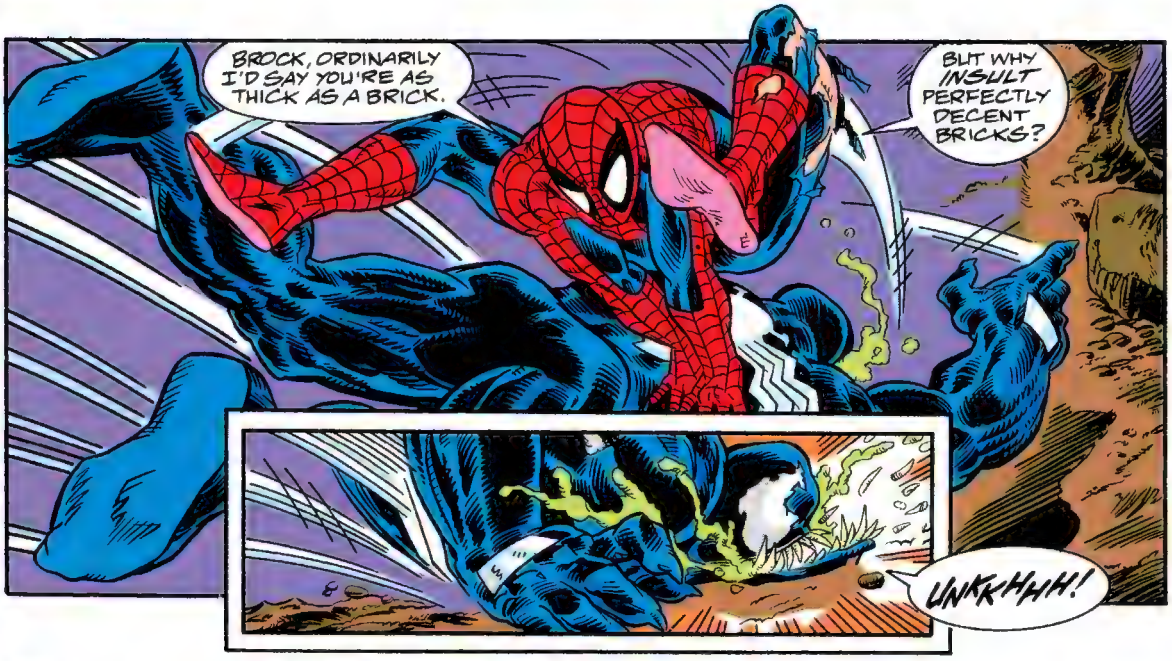

ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENSE?
:GAAKRCHH:
NO? IN THAT CASE, I FIND YOU GUIL--
I OBJECT!
IN FACT... I FIND THIS WHOLE PROCEEDING PRETTY OBJECTIONABLE.
SPIDER-MAN ASKED ME TO COME ALONG AND KEEP MYSELF IN RESERVE, JUST IN CASE. HE'S PRETTY GOOD WITH THOSE "JUST IN CASES"!
DAREDEV--
ACKK!
WAM
:HUNH:
NOT DAREDEVACKK! DAREDEVIL! WORLD'S GREATEST PAL.

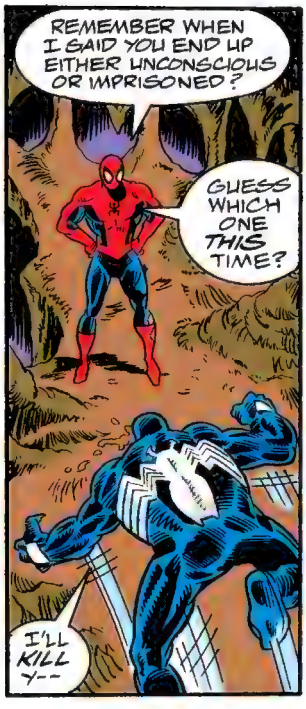

BE CAREFUL, HORNHEAD!
OH, ABSOLUTELY, SPIDEY! I PUT ON A RED SUIT, BOUNCE OFF ROOFTOPS AND FLAGPOLES AND FIGHT SLAVERING PSYCHOS...
...BECAUSE I'M THE CAUTIOUS TYPE.
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE!
HERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S JUST AS OBNOXIOUS AS SPIDER-MAN!
DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT! YOU'RE EVEN MORE OBNOXIOUS THAN SPIDER-MAN.
OOOOFF!

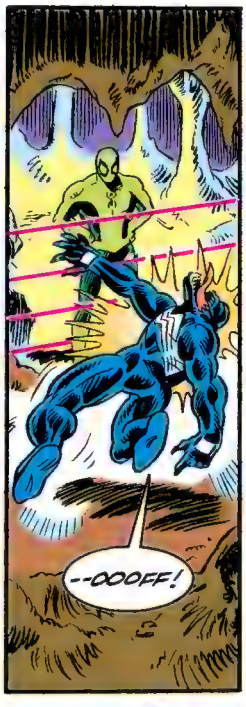

THINK I... WRENCHED MY SHOULDER! SOME ACROBAT I AM.
I BLAME YOU FOR MY CREATION AS MUCH AS SPIDER-MAN. I'M GONNA THANK YOU BY RIPPING OUT YOUR WISECRACKING TONGUE!
WHAT, YOU HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH OF YOUR OWN? GEEZ, MAN, YOU'VE GOT MORE TONGUE THAN EVERY NEW YORK DELI PUT TOGETHER.
FRANKLY, BROCK, I'M HURT. HERE YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE DANCE PARTNERS...
...WHEN WE HAVEN'T EVEN FINISHED OUR WALTZ!

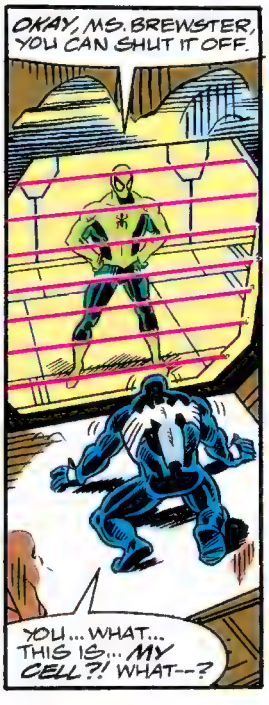

YOU WANT TO WALTZ? FINE! BUT I'M LEADING!
UNHHH!
I'M GOING TO LEAD YOU STRAIGHT TO YOUR GRAVE...
...AND BURY YOU, WALL-CRAWLER!
Y'HEAR ME?
BURY YOU!
RUNNING AWAY? THAT IS SO VERY MUCH YOUR STYLE.
HIT AND RUN. DUCK FOR COVER.
I DON'T HAVE TO DUCK AND RUN. I JUST KEEP COMING AND COMING...
SURE, BROCK. YOU'RE THE ENERGIZER BUNNY OF THE SUPER-VILLAIN SET.
YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES, SHINING YOUR FAIRY LIGHT AT ME? FINE.
I LOVE GAMES...

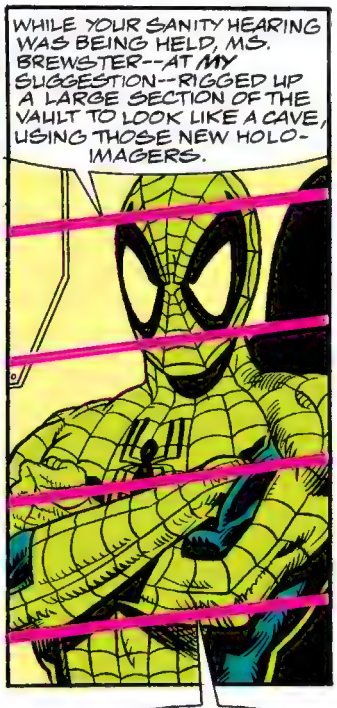

BECAUSE I ALWAYS WIN!
YOU ARE JOKING.
LET'S REVIEW, SHALL WE?
EVERY TIME YOU ATTACK ME, YOU WIND UP UNCONSCIOUS AND/OR IMPRISONED.
YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHERE "VENOM THE WINNER" FITS INTO THAT?
BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW THAT ONLY THE FINAL BATTLE IS GOING TO COUNT. BECAUSE I'M THE STRONGER!
BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER, ONE OF US IS GOING TO HAVE TO KILL THE OTHER TO END IT.
...AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT!!
EVEN YOUR STRATEGY NOW WAS PATHETIC. YOU KNEW YOUR SPIDER-SENSE DOESN'T WARN YOU I'M COMING...
SO YOU SHINED YOUR SPIDER-SIGNAL, HOPING THAT WOULD HELP YOU SPOT ME.
THE PROBLEM WITH THAT PLAN IS...
...I DON'T CARE IF YOU SEE ME COMING OR NOT!


BROCK, ORDINARILY I'D SAY YOU'RE AS THICK AS A BRICK.
BUT WHY *INSULT* PERFECTLY DECENT BRICKS?
UNKKHHH!

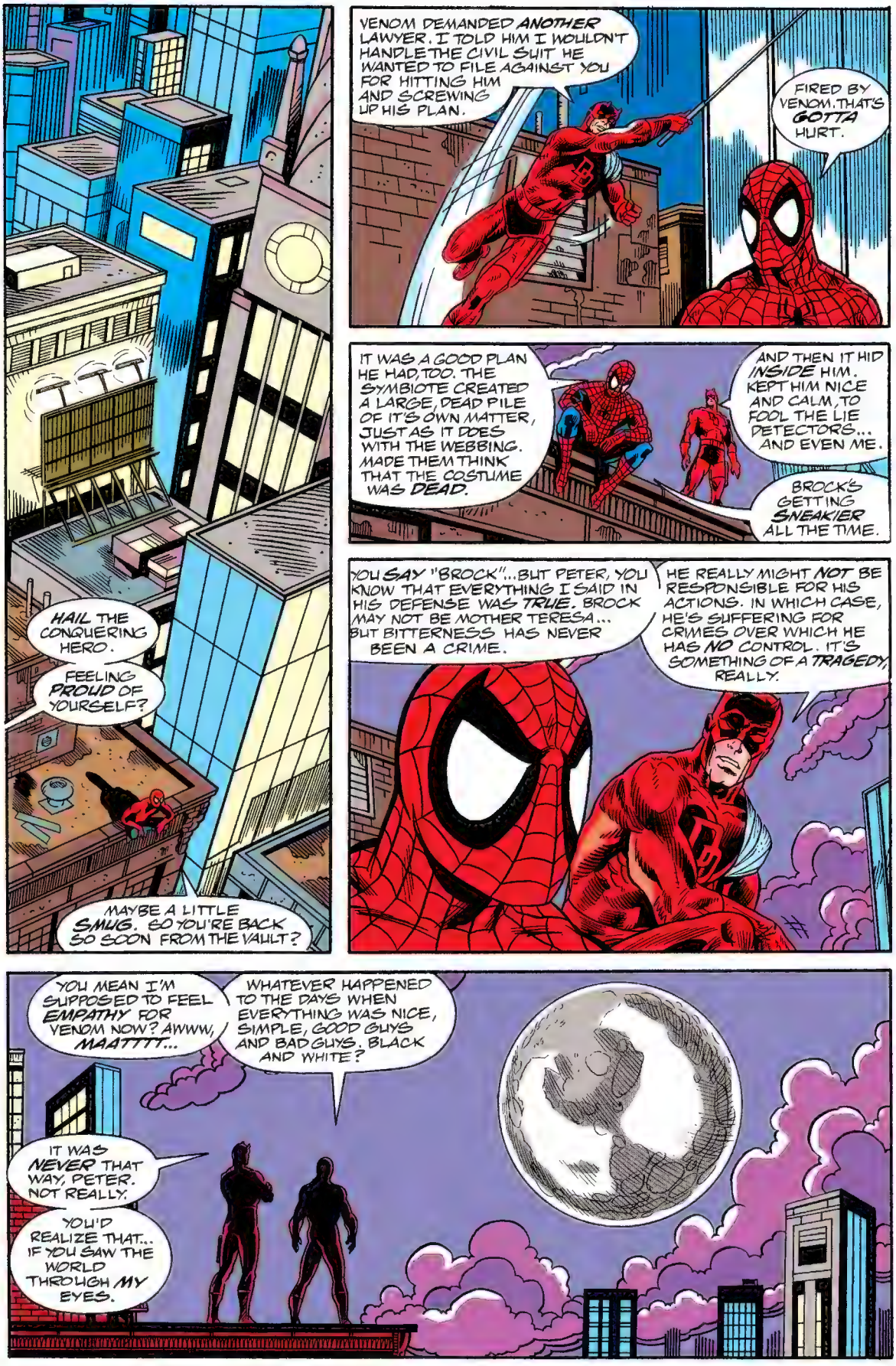

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID YOU END UP EITHER UNCONSCIOUS OR IMPRISONED?
GUESS WHICH ONE *THIS* TIME?
I'LL *KILL* Y--


--OOOFF!


OKAY, MS. BREWSTER, YOU CAN SHUT IT OFF.
YOU... WHAT... THIS IS... *MY CELL*?! WHAT--?

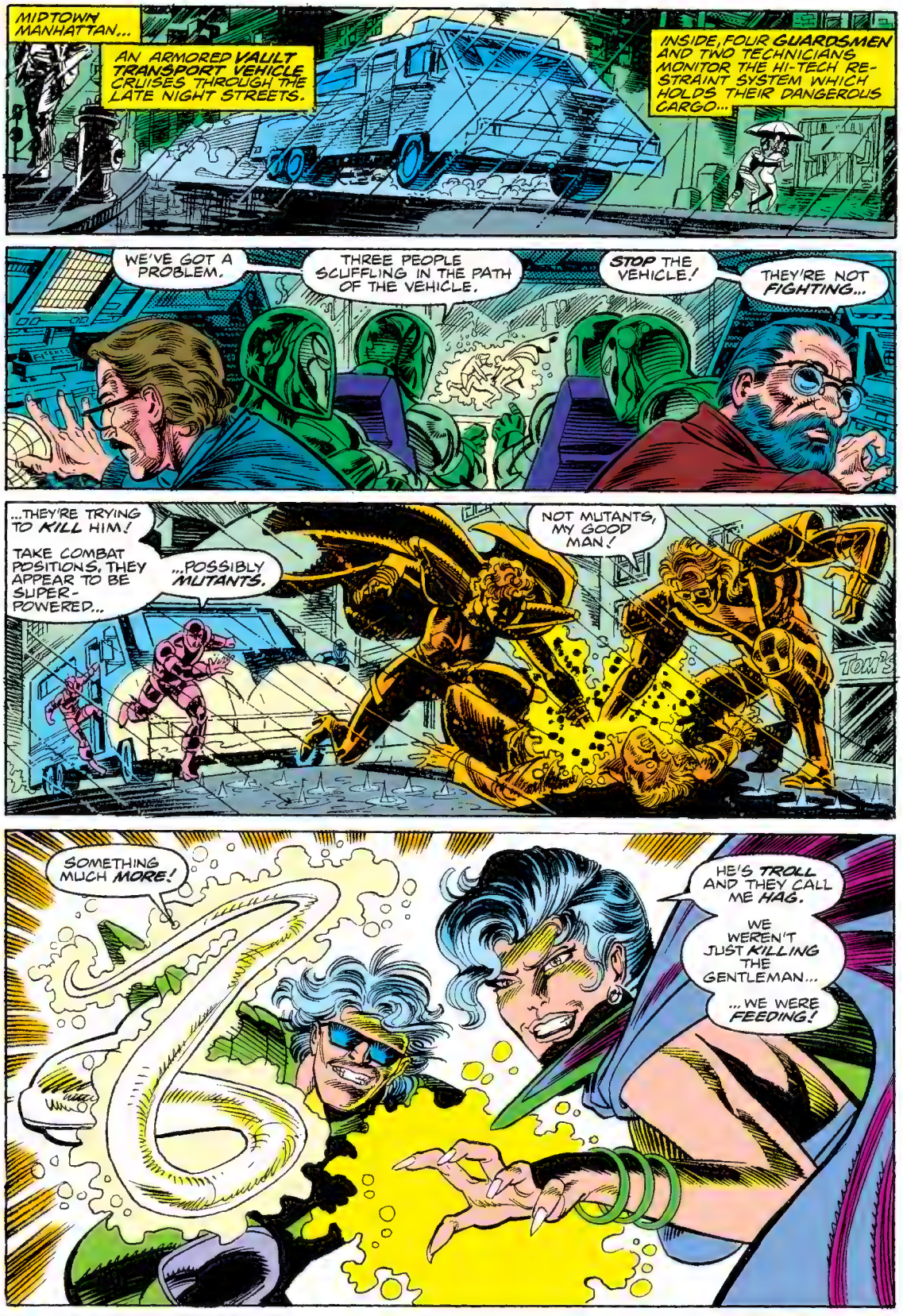

WHILE YOUR SANITY HEARING WAS BEING HELD, MS. BREWSTER--AT *MY* SUGGESTION--RIGGED UP A LARGE SECTION OF THE VAULT TO LOOK LIKE A CAVE, USING THOSE NEW HOLO-IMAGERS.

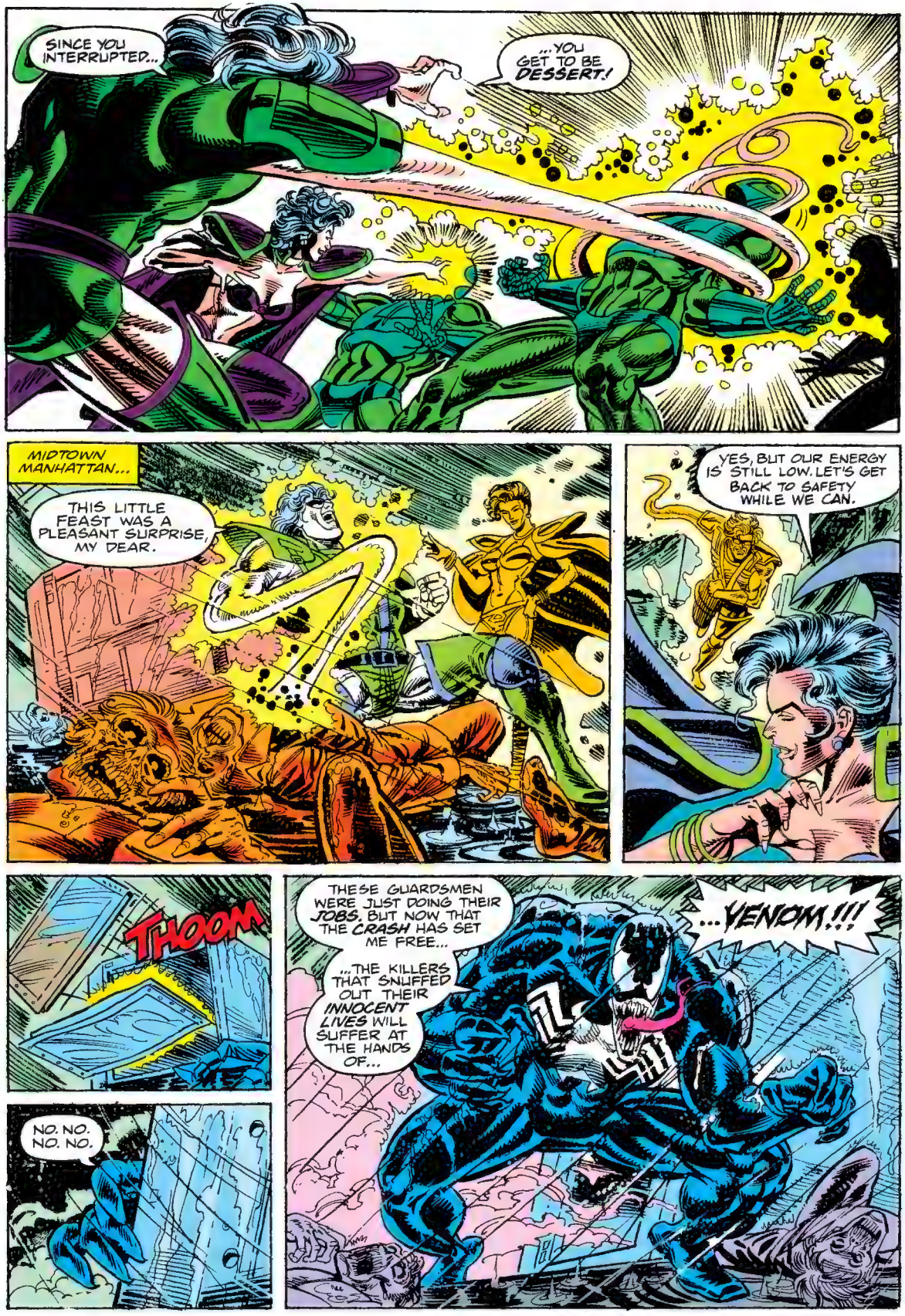
AAARRHH
YOU'VE GOT BRAND *NEW* CRIMES TO ANSWER FOR, VENOM. LUCKY, *LUCKY* YOU.


VENOM DEMANDED ANOTHER LAWYER. I TOLD HIM I WOULDN'T HANDLE THE CIVIL SUIT HE WANTED TO FILE AGAINST YOU FOR HITTING HIM AND SCREWING UP HIS PLAN.
FIRED BY VENOM. THAT'S GOTTA HURT.
IT WAS A GOOD PLAN HE HAD, TOO. THE SYMBIOTE CREATED A LARGE, DEAD PILE OF IT'S OWN MATTER, JUST AS IT DOES WITH THE WEBBING. MADE THEM THINK THAT THE COSTUME WAS DEAD.
AND THEN IT HID INSIDE HIM. KEPT HIM NICE AND CALM, TO FOOL THE LIE DETECTORS... AND EVEN ME.
BROCK'S GETTING SNEAKIER ALL THE TIME.
HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO.
FEELING PROUD OF YOURSELF?
MAYBE A LITTLE SMUG. SO YOU'RE BACK SO SOON FROM THE VAULT?
YOU SAY "BROCK"... BUT PETER, YOU KNOW THAT EVERYTHING I SAID IN HIS DEFENSE WAS TRUE. BROCK MAY NOT BE MOTHER TERESA... BUT BITTERNESS HAS NEVER BEEN A CRIME.
HE REALLY MIGHT NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS. IN WHICH CASE, HE'S SUFFERING FOR CRIMES OVER WHICH HE HAS NO CONTROL. IT'S SOMETHING OF A TRAGEDY, REALLY.
YOU MEAN I'M SUPPOSED TO FEEL EMPATHY FOR VENOM NOW? AWWW, MAATTTT...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE DAYS WHEN EVERYTHING WAS NICE, SIMPLE, GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS. BLACK AND WHITE?
IT WAS NEVER THAT WAY, PETER. NOT REALLY.
YOU'D REALIZE THAT... IF YOU SAW THE WORLD THROUGH MY EYES.

WHEN TWO ENEMIES OF GHOST RIDER ATTACKED A VAULT TRANSPORT, VENOM AND SPIDER-MAN WERE DRAGGED INTO THE WORLD OF THE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE, STARTING WITH THIS EXCERPT FROM *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #94*.

WRITER: HOWARD MACKIE • PENCILER: ALEX SAVIUK • INKER: DON HUDSON •
COLORISTS: BOB SHAREN & RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER • LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE •
ASSISTANT EDITOR: ERIC FEIN • EDITOR: DANNY FINGEROTH


MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
AN ARMORED VAULT TRANSPORT VEHICLE CRUISES THROUGH THE LATE NIGHT STREETS.
INSIDE, FOUR GUARDSMEN AND TWO TECHNICIANS MONITOR THE HI-TECH RESTRAINT SYSTEM WHICH HOLDS THEIR DANGEROUS CARGO...
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.
THREE PEOPLE SCUFFLING IN THE PATH OF THE VEHICLE.
STOP THE VEHICLE!
THEY'RE NOT FIGHTING...
...THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL HIM!
TAKE COMBAT POSITIONS. THEY APPEAR TO BE SUPER-POWERED...
...POSSIBLY MUTANTS.
NOT MUTANTS, MY GOOD MAN!
SOMETHING MUCH MORE!
HE'S TROLL AND THEY CALL ME HAG.
WE WEREN'T JUST KILLING THE GENTLEMAN...
...WE WERE FEEDING!


SINCE YOU INTERRUPTED...
...YOU GET TO BE DESSERT!
MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
THIS LITTLE FEAST WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, MY DEAR.
YES, BUT OUR ENERGY IS STILL LOW. LET'S GET BACK TO SAFETY WHILE WE CAN.
THOOM
NO. NO. NO. NO.
THESE GUARDSMEN WERE JUST DOING THEIR JOBS. BUT NOW THAT THE CRASH HAS SET ME FREE...
...THE KILLERS THAT SNUFFED OUT THEIR INNOCENT LIVES WILL SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF...
...VENOM!!!

EXCERPT FROM *GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #4*

WRITER: HOWARD MACKIE • PENCILER: ADAM KUBERT • INKERS: JOE KUBERT & TOM MANDRAKE
COLORIST: GREGORY WRIGHT • LETTERER: MICHAEL HEISLER • ASSISTANT EDITOR: MATTHEW MORRA
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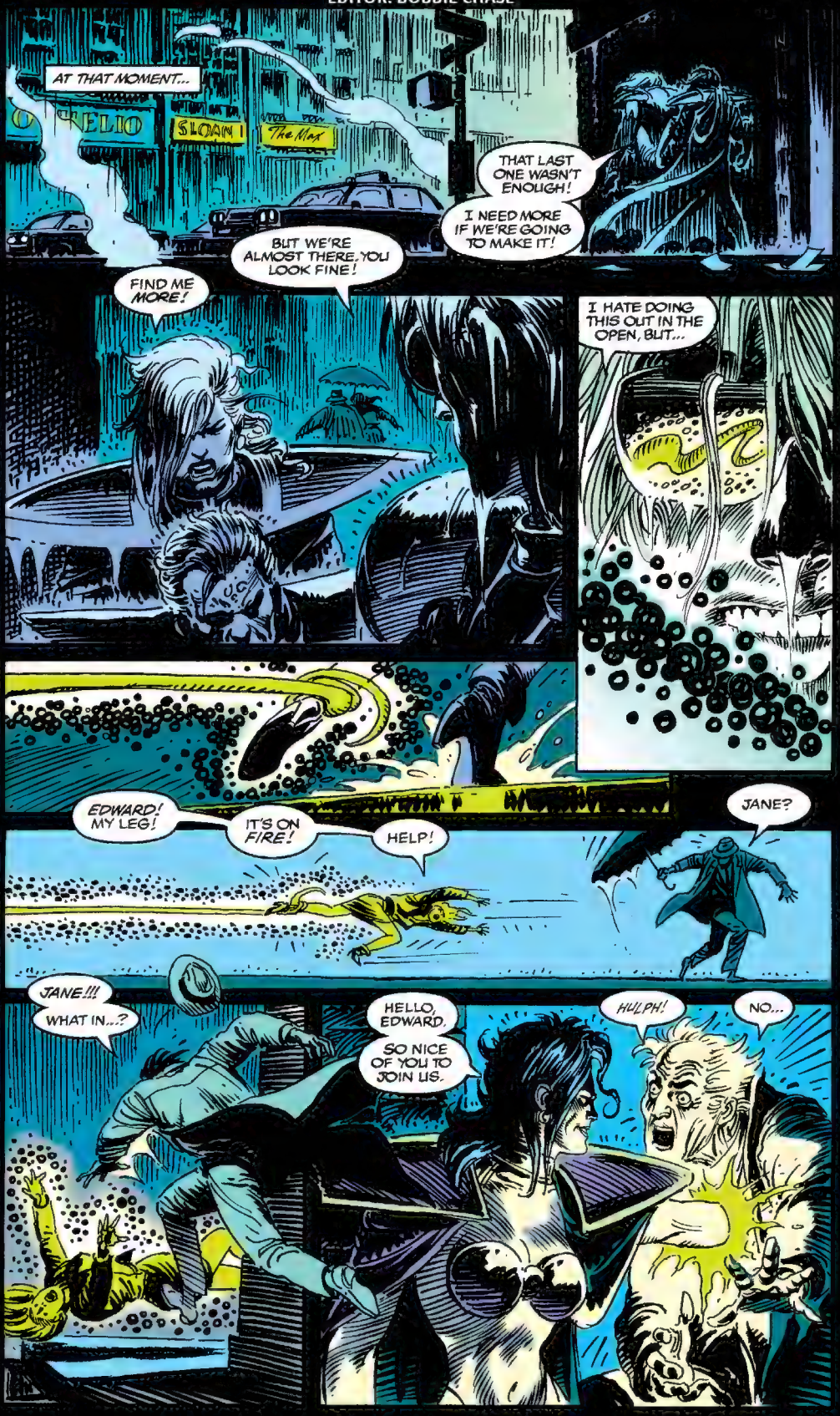

NNNOOO
FWOOSH
UUNGHH!
BRAIN... ON... FIRE...
DAN?
GHOST RIDER?
DAN'S TRANSFORMED. I FELT IT.
HOW?
WHY?
I FEEL MUCH REFRESHED.
AHHH!
GOOD. NOW WE'RE JUST AROUND THE BLOCK FROM HOME.
NO ONE IS GOING TO STOP US NOW.
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, KIDDIES.
IT'S PAYBACK TIME.

GUESS I WAS KIDDING MYSELF INTO BELIEVING THAT I HAD A *CHOICE* IN THIS THING, HUH?

NEITHER OF US DOES, BLAZE.

TIME TO KILL THE KILLERS...

TIME TO KILL THE KILLERS...

TIME TO KILL THE KILLERS...

...AND ANYONE ELSE WHO GETS IN THE WAY.

MARVEL COMICS
SPIRITS OF VENOM PART 1
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
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95
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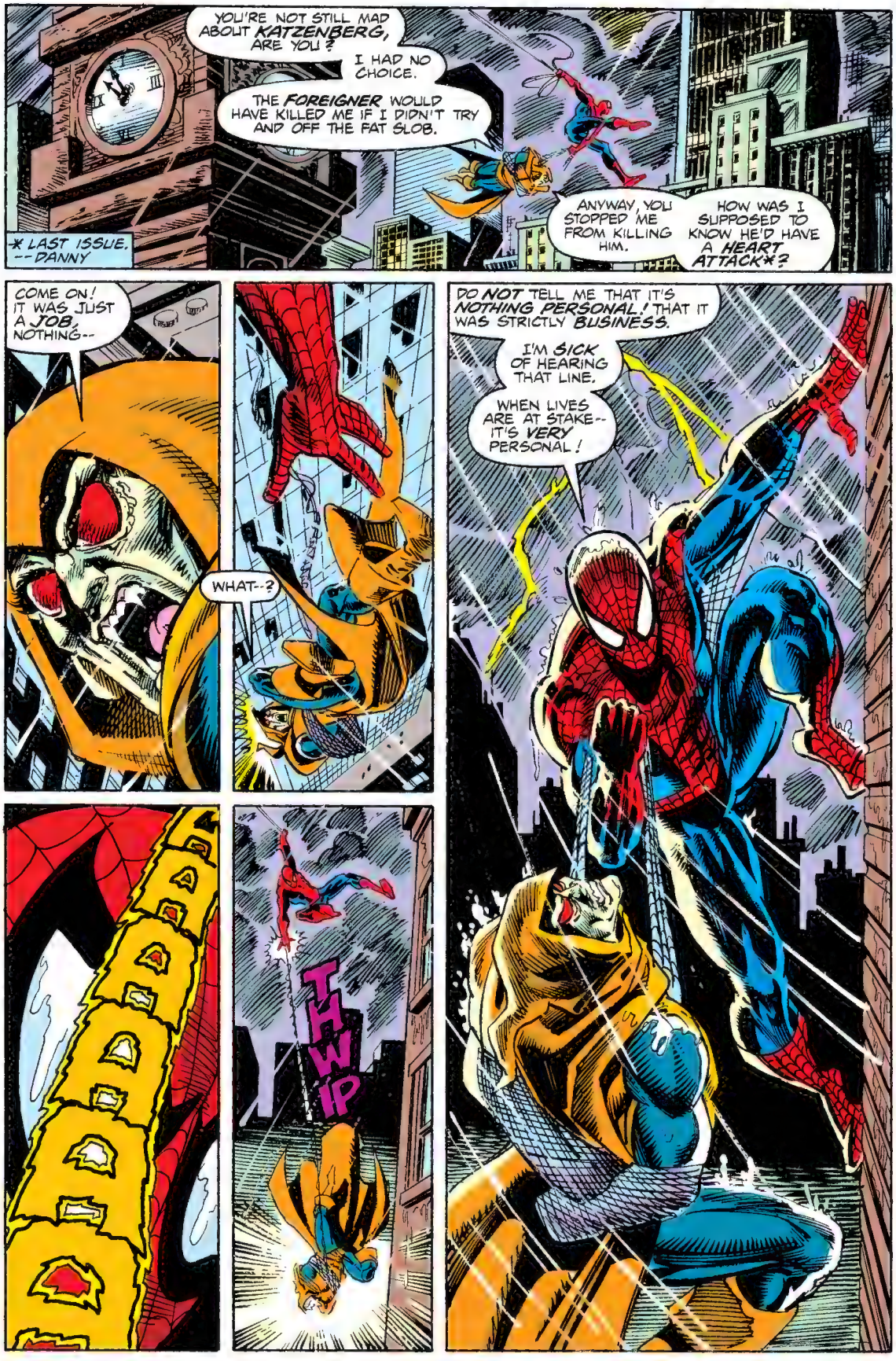
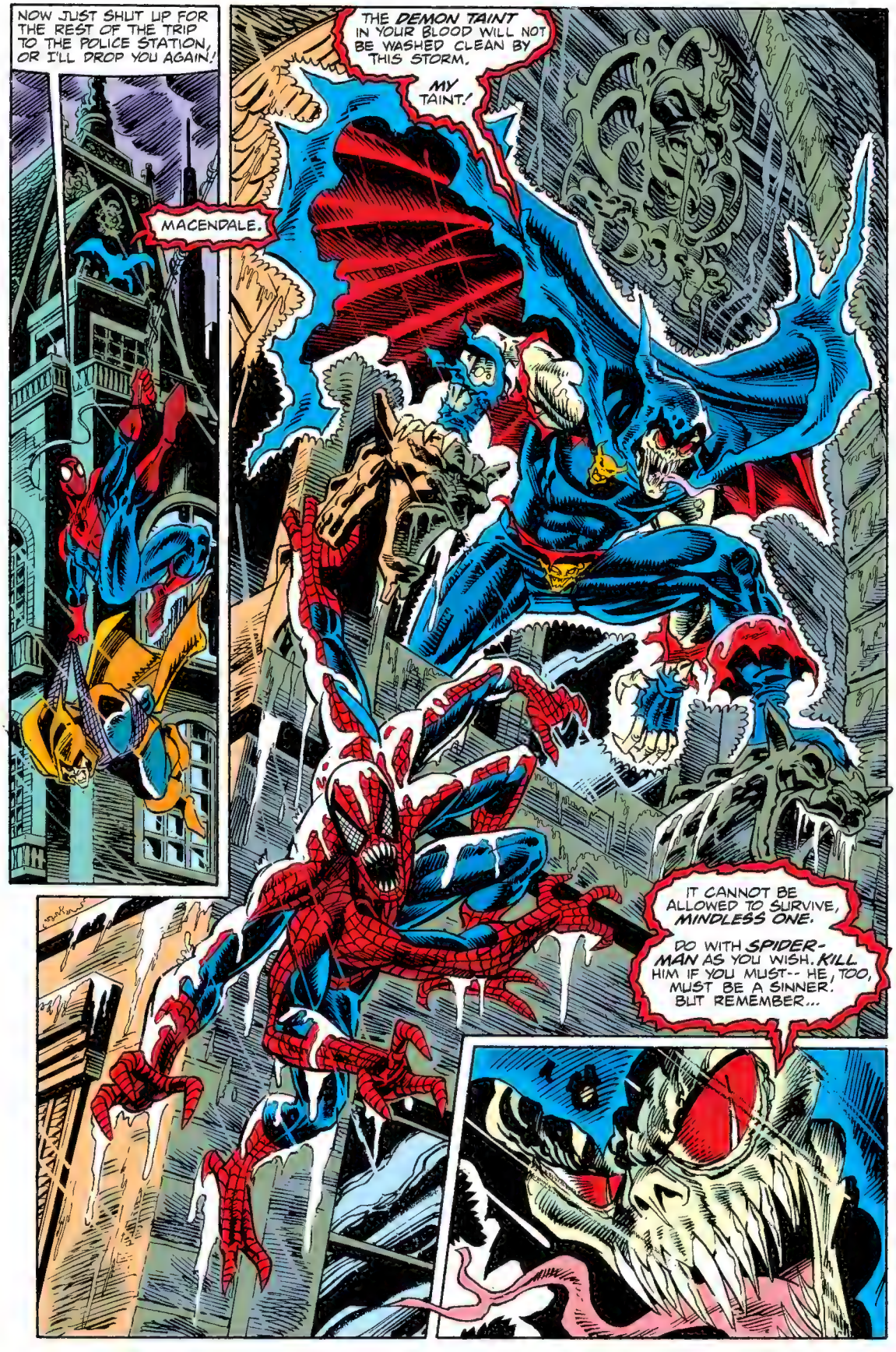
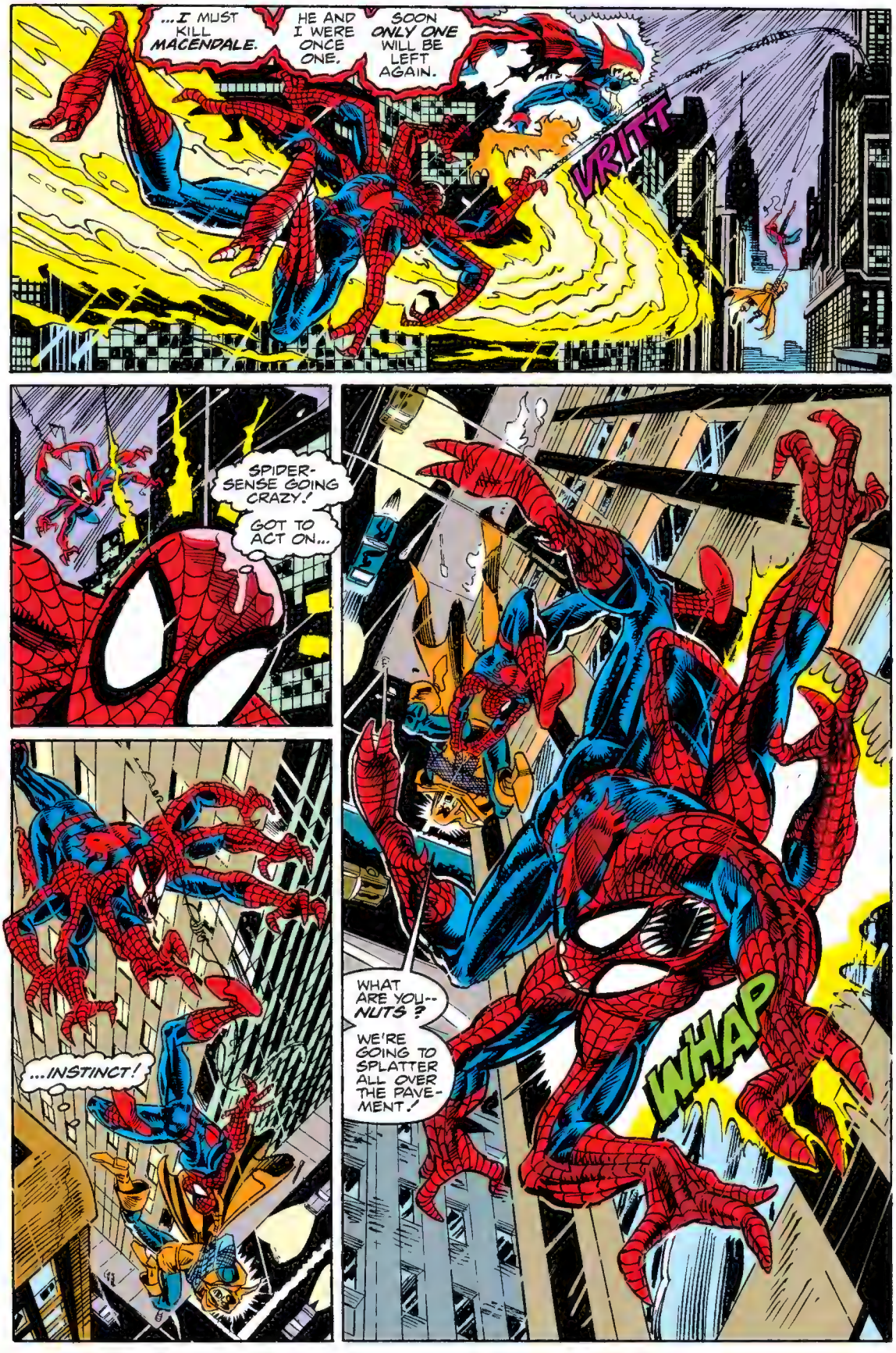
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
VENOM™! GHOST RIDER®! JOHNNY BLAZE™!

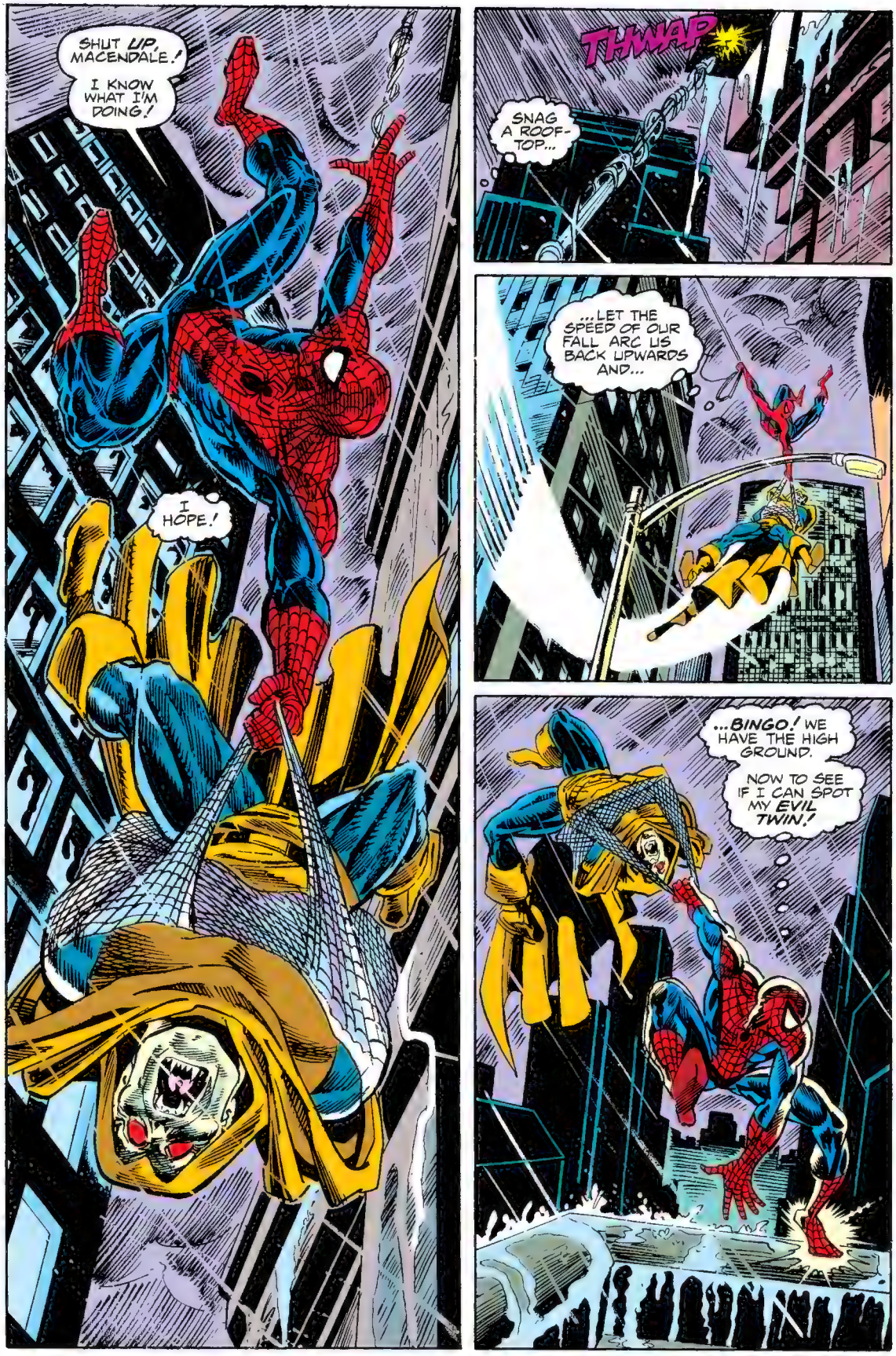
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

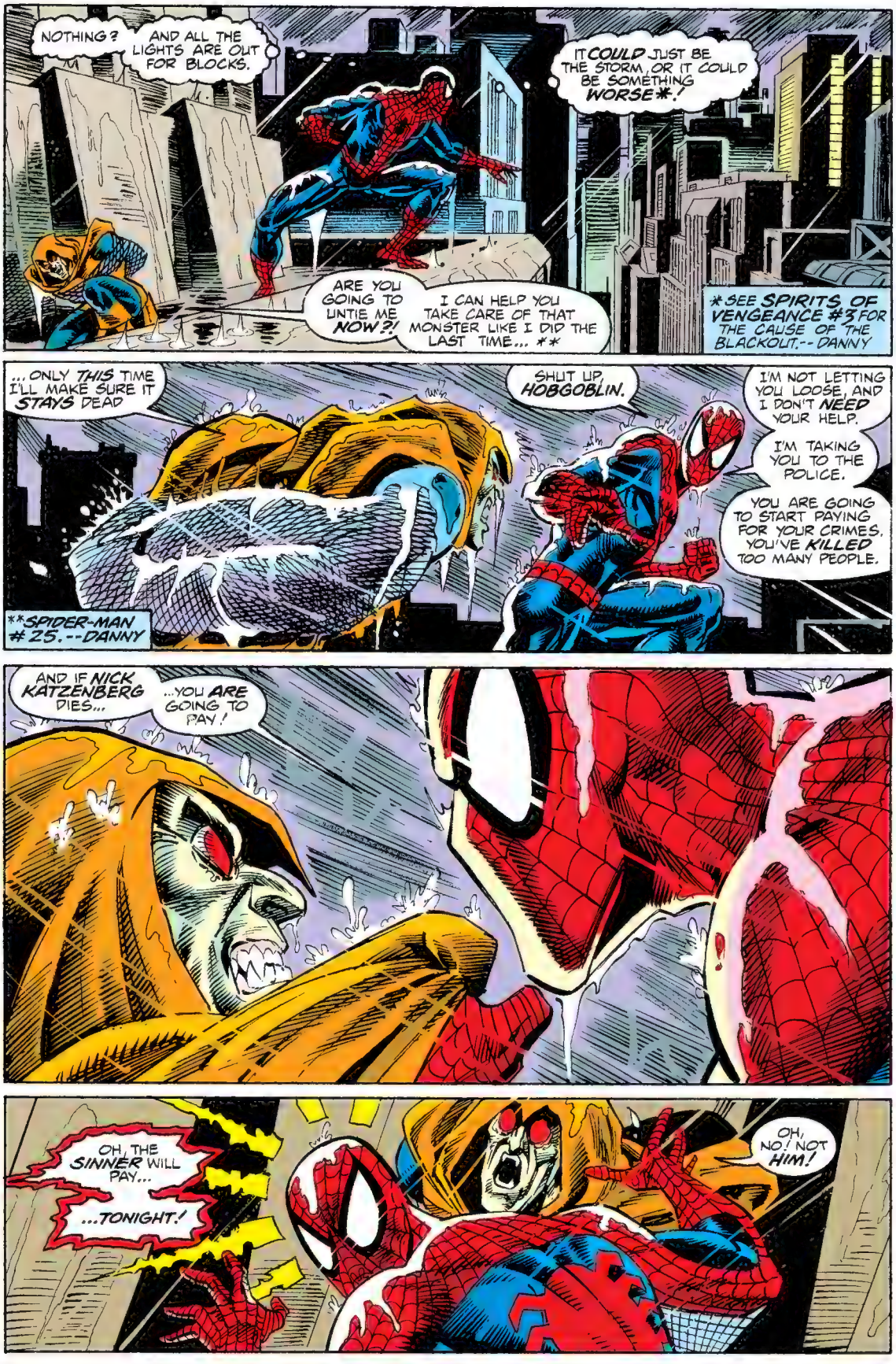
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN**™


YOU'RE NOT STILL MAD ABOUT KATZENBERG, ARE YOU?
I HAD NO CHOICE.
THE FOREIGNER WOULD HAVE KILLED ME IF I DIDN'T TRY AND OFF THE FAT SLOB.
ANYWAY, YOU STOPPED ME FROM KILLING HIM.
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE'D HAVE A HEART ATTACK*?
* LAST ISSUE, --DANNY
COME ON! IT WAS JUST A JOB, NOTHING--
WHAT--?
DO NOT TELL ME THAT IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL! THAT IT WAS STRICTLY BUSINESS.
I'M SICK OF HEARING THAT LINE.
WHEN LIVES ARE AT STAKE-- IT'S VERY PERSONAL!
THWIP

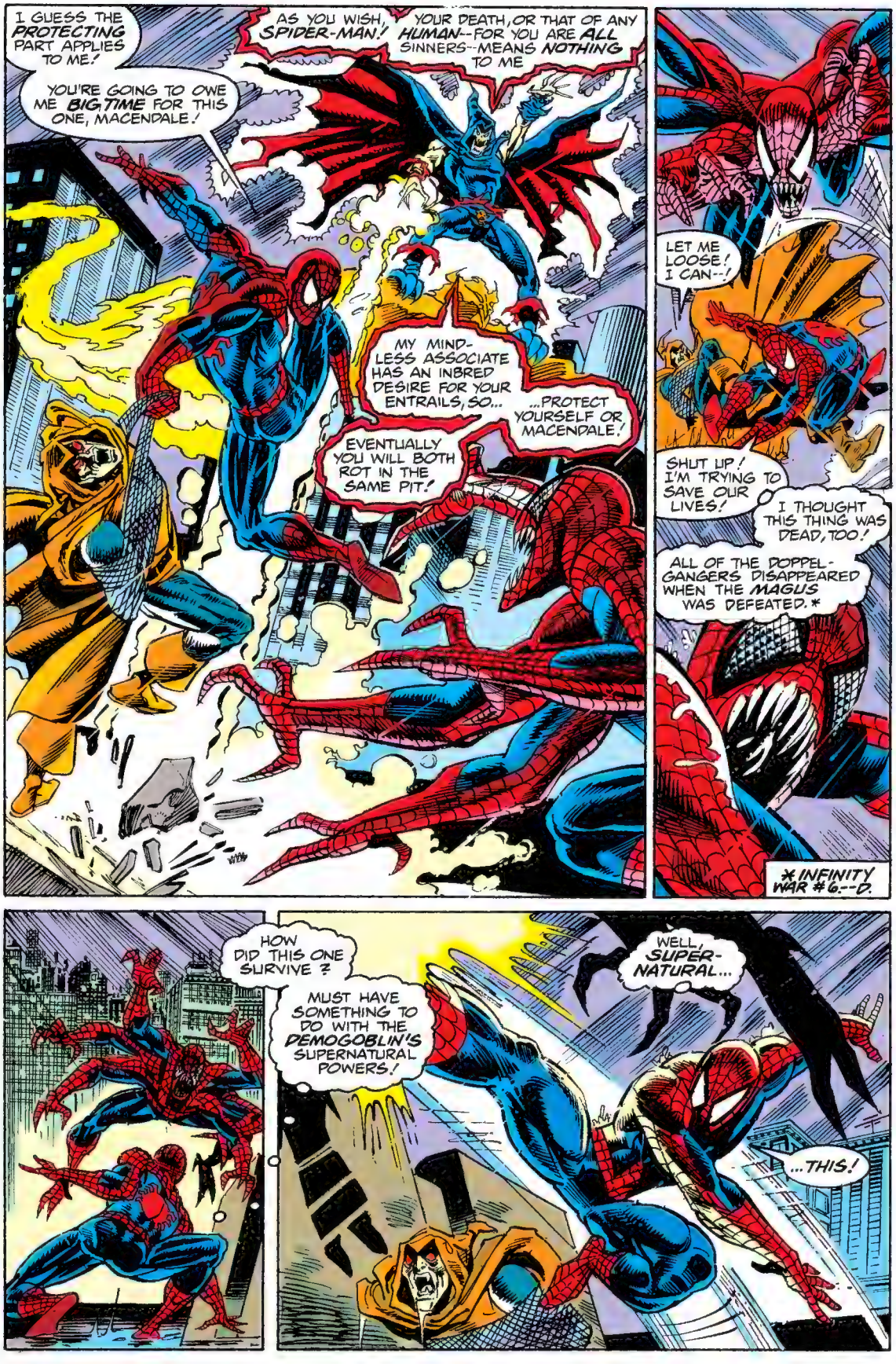

NOW JUST SHUT UP FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP TO THE POLICE STATION, OR I'LL DROP YOU AGAIN!
MACENDALE.
THE DEMON TAINT IN YOUR BLOOD WILL NOT BE WASHED CLEAN BY THIS STORM.
MY TAINT!
IT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO SURVIVE, MINDLESS ONE.
DO WITH SPIDER-MAN AS YOU WISH. KILL HIM IF YOU MUST-- HE, TOO, MUST BE A SINNER. BUT REMEMBER...

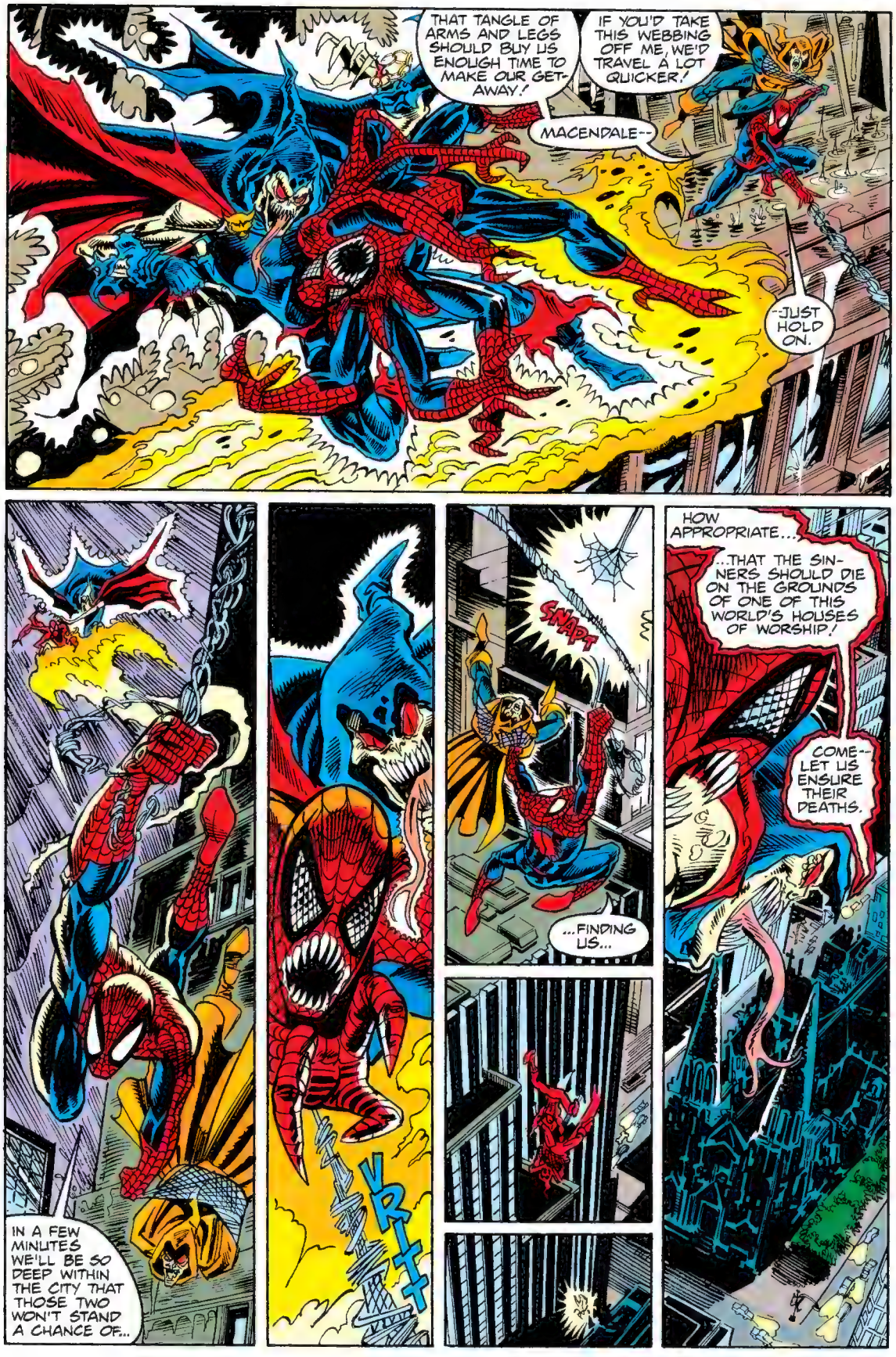

...I MUST KILL MACENDALE.
HE AND I WERE ONCE ONE.
SOON ONLY ONE WILL BE LEFT AGAIN.
VRITT
SPIDER-SENSE GOING CRAZY!
GOT TO ACT ON...
...INSTINCT!
WHAT ARE YOU-- NUTS?
WE'RE GOING TO SPLATTER ALL OVER THE PAVE-MENT!
WHAP

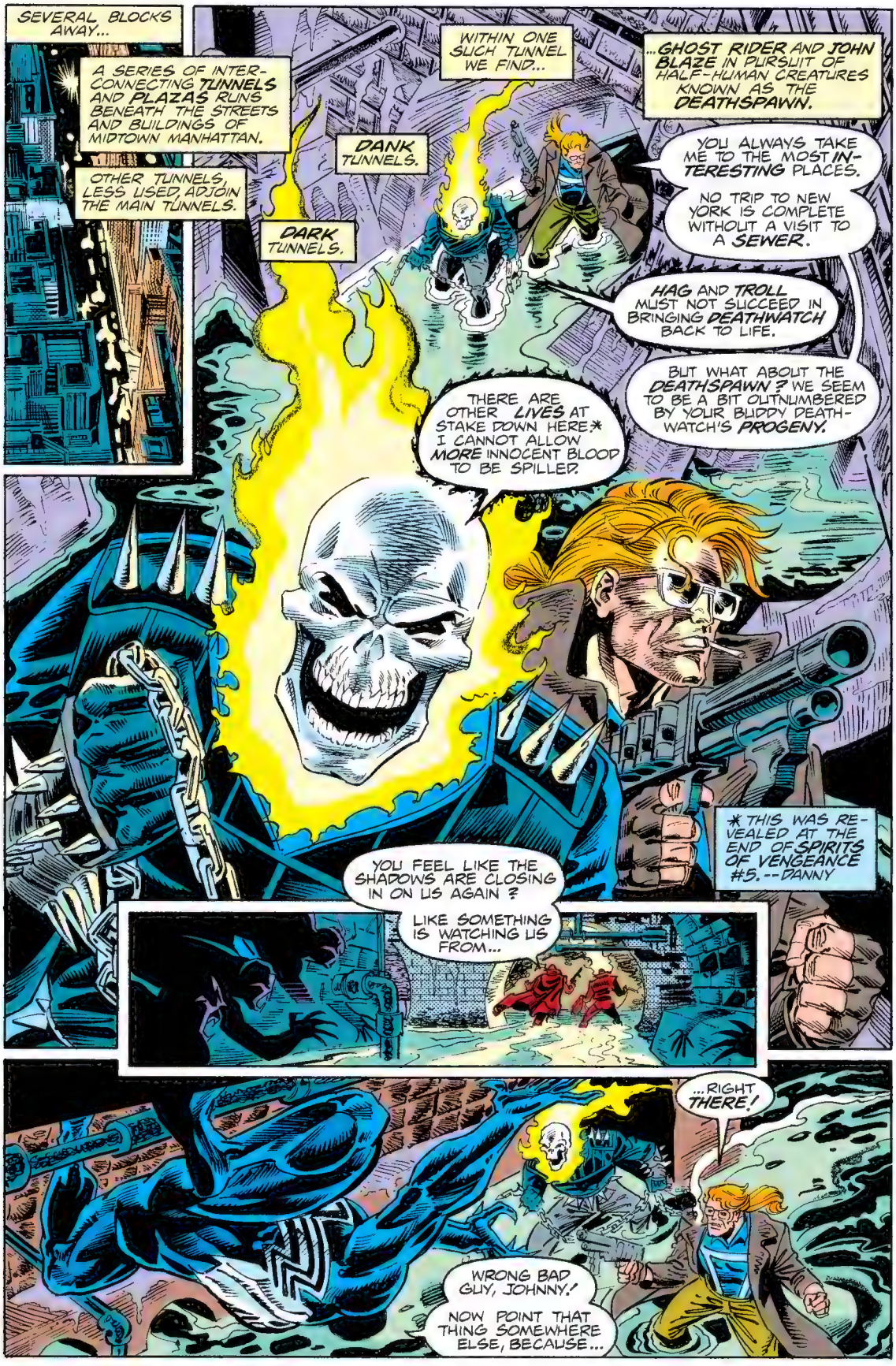

SHUT UP, MACENDALE!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
I HOPE!
THWAP
SNAG A ROOF-TOP...
...LET THE SPEED OF OUR FALL ARC US BACK UPWARDS AND...
...BINGO! WE HAVE THE HIGH GROUND.
NOW TO SEE IF I CAN SPOT MY EVIL TWIN!


NOTHING?
AND ALL THE LIGHTS ARE OUT FOR BLOCKS.
IT COULD JUST BE THE STORM, OR IT COULD BE SOMETHING WORSE*!
ARE YOU GOING TO UNTIE ME NOW?!
I CAN HELP YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT MONSTER LIKE I DID THE LAST TIME... **
*SEE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #3 FOR THE CAUSE OF THE BLACKOUT.--DANNY
...ONLY THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE IT STAYS DEAD
SHUT UP, HOBGOBLIN.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU LOOSE, AND I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M TAKING YOU TO THE POLICE.
YOU ARE GOING TO START PAYING FOR YOUR CRIMES. YOU'VE KILLED TOO MANY PEOPLE.
**SPIDER-MAN #25.--DANNY
AND IF NICK KATZENBERG DIES...
...YOU ARE GOING TO PAY!
OH, THE SINNER WILL PAY...
...TONIGHT!
OH, NO! NOT HIM!

YES, HOBGOBLIN...
...IT IS I!
THE MOST HOLY OF ALL SINNERS.
THE ONE WHO WILL TRIUMPH OVER ALL SINNERS
THE ONE WHO WAS FORCED TO SUFFER THE INDIGNITY OF SHARING YOUR BODY...
...YOUR SOUL!
AND NOW, THE ONE WHO SHALL ONCE AGAIN ASSUME THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
I WILL SEE YOU...
...ALL OF YOUR KIND...
... AND ANY WHO SEEK TO PROTECT YOU BURN FOR ALL ETERNITY IN THE FIERY PIT!

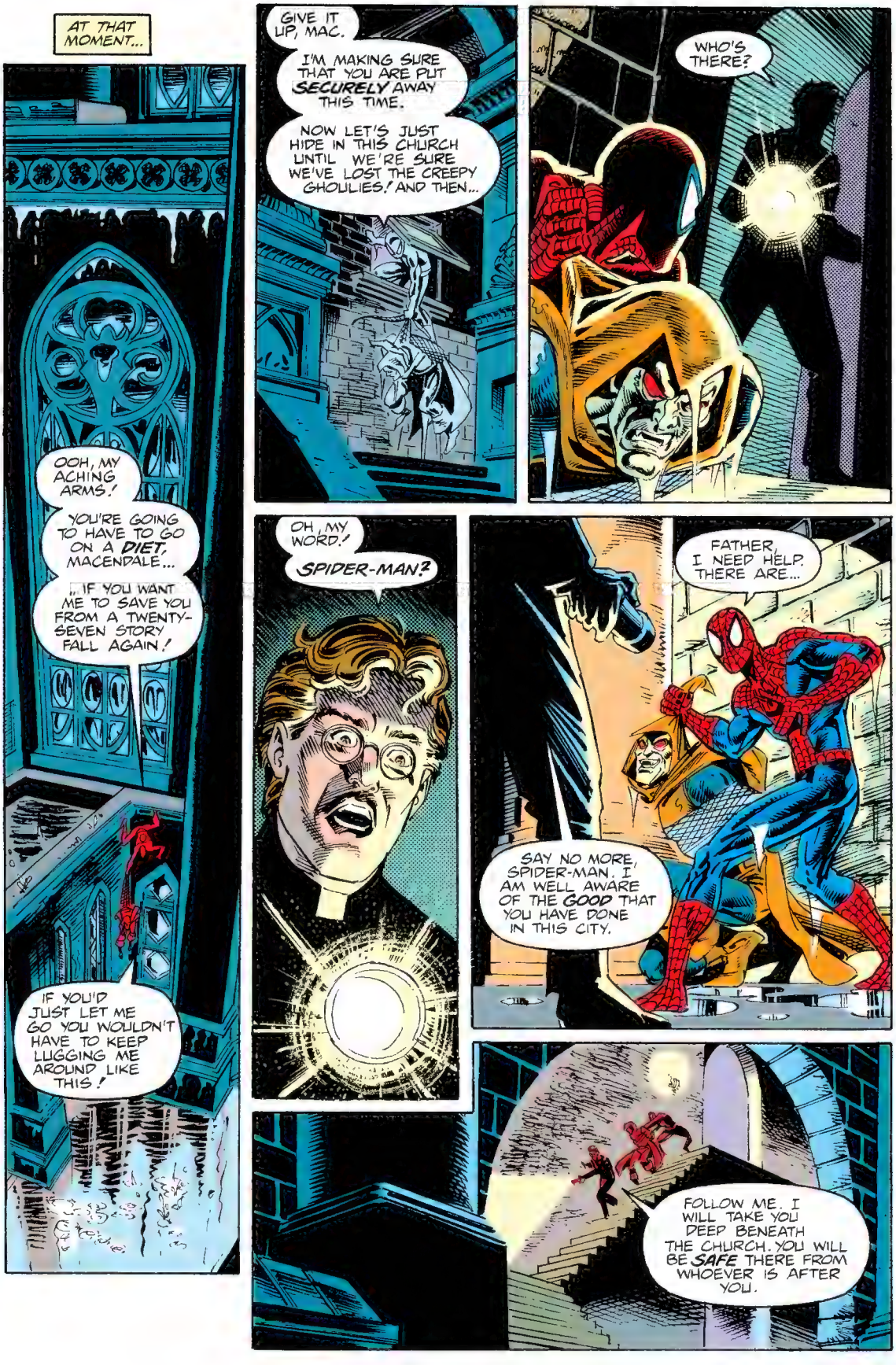

I GUESS THE PROTECTING PART APPLIES TO ME!
YOU'RE GOING TO OWE ME BIG TIME FOR THIS ONE, MACENDALE!
AS YOU WISH, SPIDER-MAN!
YOUR DEATH, OR THAT OF ANY HUMAN--FOR YOU ARE ALL SINNERS--MEANS NOTHING TO ME
MY MINDLESS ASSOCIATE HAS AN INBRED DESIRE FOR YOUR ENTRAILS, SO...
...PROTECT YOURSELF OR MACENDALE!
EVENTUALLY YOU WILL BOTH ROT IN THE SAME PIT!
LET ME LOOSE! I CAN--!
SHUT UP! I'M TRYING TO SAVE OUR LIVES!
I THOUGHT THIS THING WAS DEAD, TOO!
ALL OF THE DOPPELGANGERS DISAPPEARED WHEN THE MAGUS WAS DEFEATED.*
*INFINITY WAR #6.--D.
HOW DID THIS ONE SURVIVE?
MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE DEMOGOBLIN'S SUPERNATURAL POWERS!
WELL, SUPERNATURAL...
...THIS!

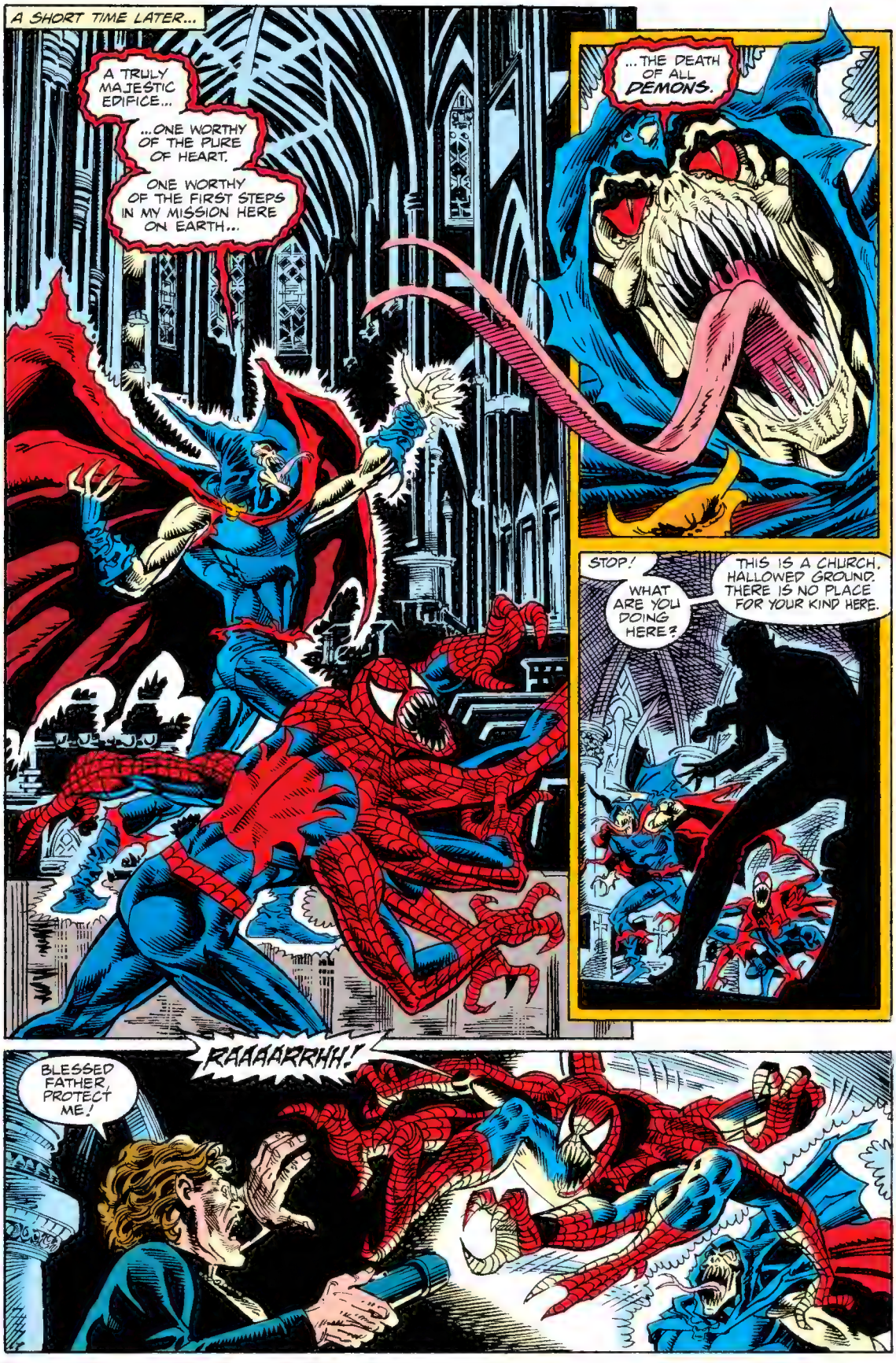

THAT TANGLE OF ARMS AND LEGS SHOULD BUY US ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE OUR GET-AWAY!
IF YOU'D TAKE THIS WEBBING OFF ME, WE'D TRAVEL A LOT QUICKER!
MACENDALE--
--JUST HOLD ON.
IN A FEW MINUTES WE'LL BE SO DEEP WITHIN THE CITY THAT THOSE TWO WON'T STAND A CHANCE OF...
VRIT
SNAP!
...FINDING US...
HOW APPROPRIATE...
..THAT THE SINNERS SHOULD DIE ON THE GROUNDS OF ONE OF THIS WORLD'S HOUSES OF WORSHIP!
COME--LET US ENSURE THEIR DEATHS.

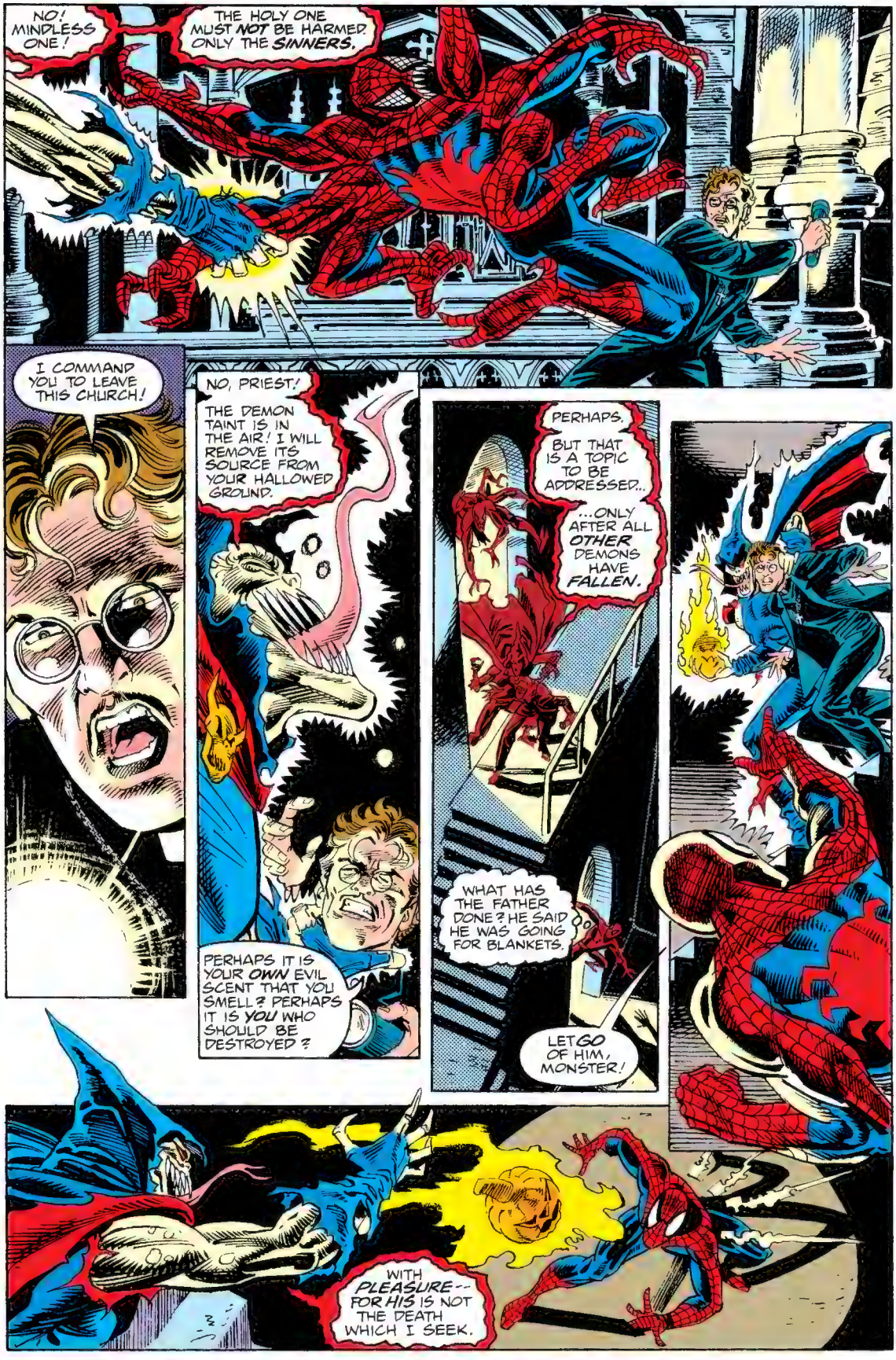

SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY...
A SERIES OF INTER-CONNECTING TUNNELS AND PLAZAS RUNS BENEATH THE STREETS AND BUILDINGS OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.
OTHER TUNNELS, LESS USED, ADJOIN THE MAIN TUNNELS.
DANK TUNNELS.
DARK TUNNELS.
WITHIN ONE SUCH TUNNEL WE FIND...
...GHOST RIDER AND JOHN BLAZE IN PURSUIT OF HALF-HUMAN CREATURES KNOWN AS THE DEATHSPAWN.
YOU ALWAYS TAKE ME TO THE MOST INTERESTING PLACES.
NO TRIP TO NEW YORK IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A VISIT TO A SEWER.
HAG AND TROLL MUST NOT SUCCEED IN BRINGING DEATHWATCH BACK TO LIFE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DEATHSPAWN? WE SEEM TO BE A BIT OUTNUMBERED BY YOUR BUDDY DEATH-WATCH'S PROGENY.
THERE ARE OTHER LIVES AT STAKE DOWN HERE.* I CANNOT ALLOW MORE INNOCENT BLOOD TO BE SPILLED.
*THIS WAS RE-VEALED AT THE END OF SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5. --DANNY
YOU FEEL LIKE THE SHADOWS ARE CLOSING IN ON US AGAIN?
LIKE SOMETHING IS WATCHING US FROM...
...RIGHT THERE!
WRONG BAD GUY, JOHNNY!
NOW POINT THAT THING SOMEWHERE ELSE, BECAUSE...

...WE'RE SURROUNDED!
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM?
NOPE. I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU EVER SINCE YOU CAME DOWN HERE, JOHNNY.
...AND HERE THEY ARE NOW.
ALWAYS OUT OF SIGHT, BUT WITHIN EARSHOT. SEEMS TO ME THAT ALL THREE OF US BOTH ARE AFTER THE SAME KILLERS...
IN A WAY, WE MUST THANK YOU GENTLEMEN FOR FOLLOWING US DOWN HERE INTO OUR INNERMOST SANCTUM.
YES. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE DEATHSPAWN CAN ABSORB YOUR LIFE FORCE, GHOST RIDER.
YOUR DEATH WILL SERVE AS PAYMENT FOR THAT WHICH YOU DID TO DEATHWATCH.
IF ANYONE IS GOING TO DIE AROUND HERE, IT'S GOING TO BE YOU TWO FOR WHAT YOU DID TO THE INNOCENT GUARDSMEN!*
OH, REALLY?
*LAST ISSUE.--D.

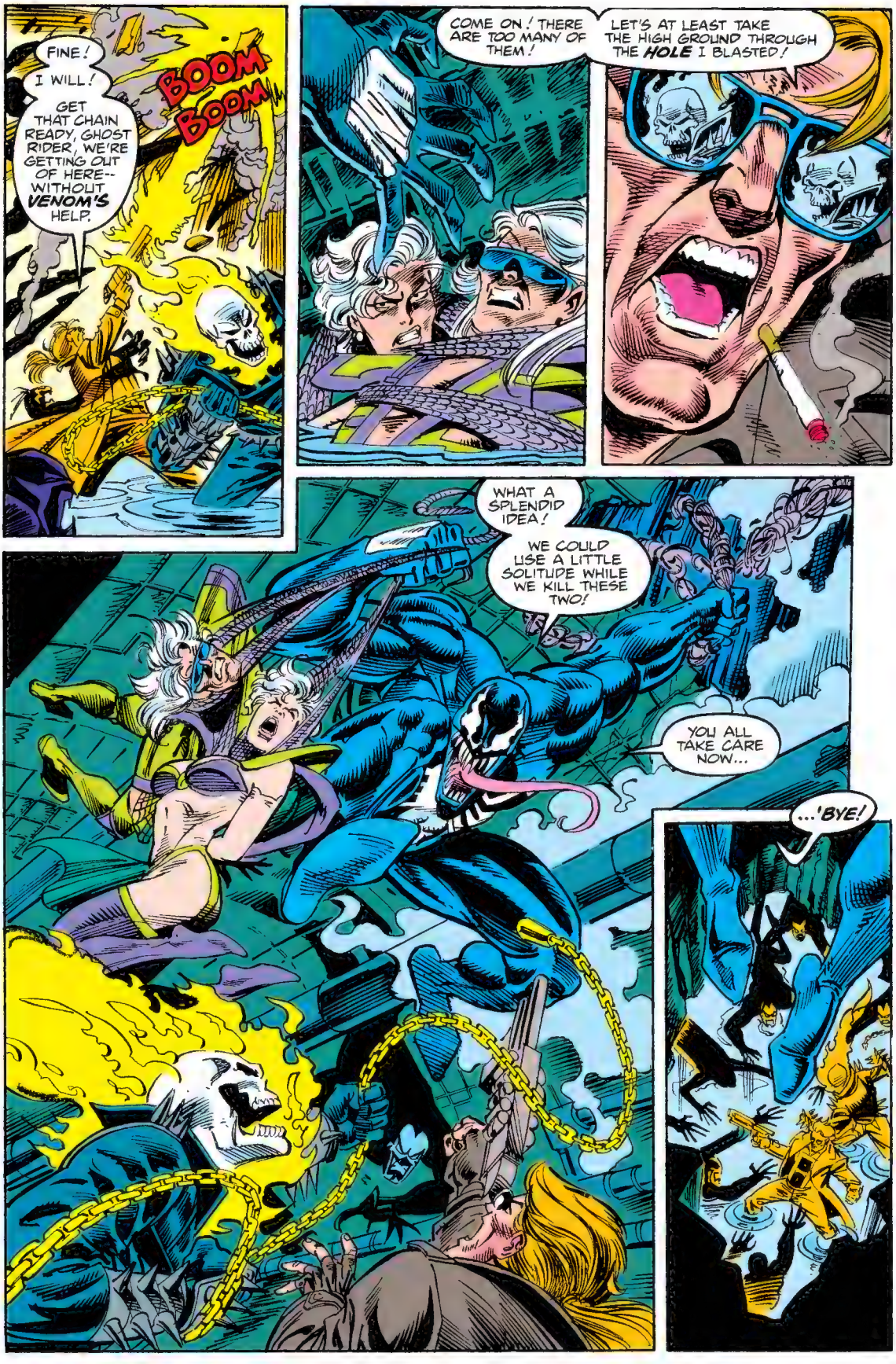
WOULD YOU MEAN--
--LIKE THIS?
NICE TRY, BUNKY!
BUT I'M STILL GOING TO SLURP DOWN YOUR AND THE LITTLE LADY'S BRAINS FOR WHAT YOU DID!
AND ALL THESE SHADOW CREATURES AREN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM AVENGING THE LIVES THAT YOU TOOK!


AT THAT MOMENT...
OOH, MY ACHING ARMS!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO ON A DIET, MACENDALE...
...IF YOU WANT ME TO SAVE YOU FROM A TWENTY-SEVEN STORY FALL AGAIN!
IF YOU'D JUST LET ME GO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP LUGGING ME AROUND LIKE THIS!
GIVE IT UP, MAC.
I'M MAKING SURE THAT YOU ARE PUT SECURELY AWAY THIS TIME.
NOW LET'S JUST HIDE IN THIS CHURCH UNTIL WE'RE SURE WE'VE LOST THE CREEPY GHOULIES! AND THEN...
WHO'S THERE?
OH, MY WORD!
SPIDER-MAN?
FATHER, I NEED HELP. THERE ARE...
SAY NO MORE, SPIDER-MAN. I AM WELL AWARE OF THE GOOD THAT YOU HAVE DONE IN THIS CITY.
FOLLOW ME. I WILL TAKE YOU DEEP BENEATH THE CHURCH. YOU WILL BE SAFE THERE FROM WHOEVER IS AFTER YOU.

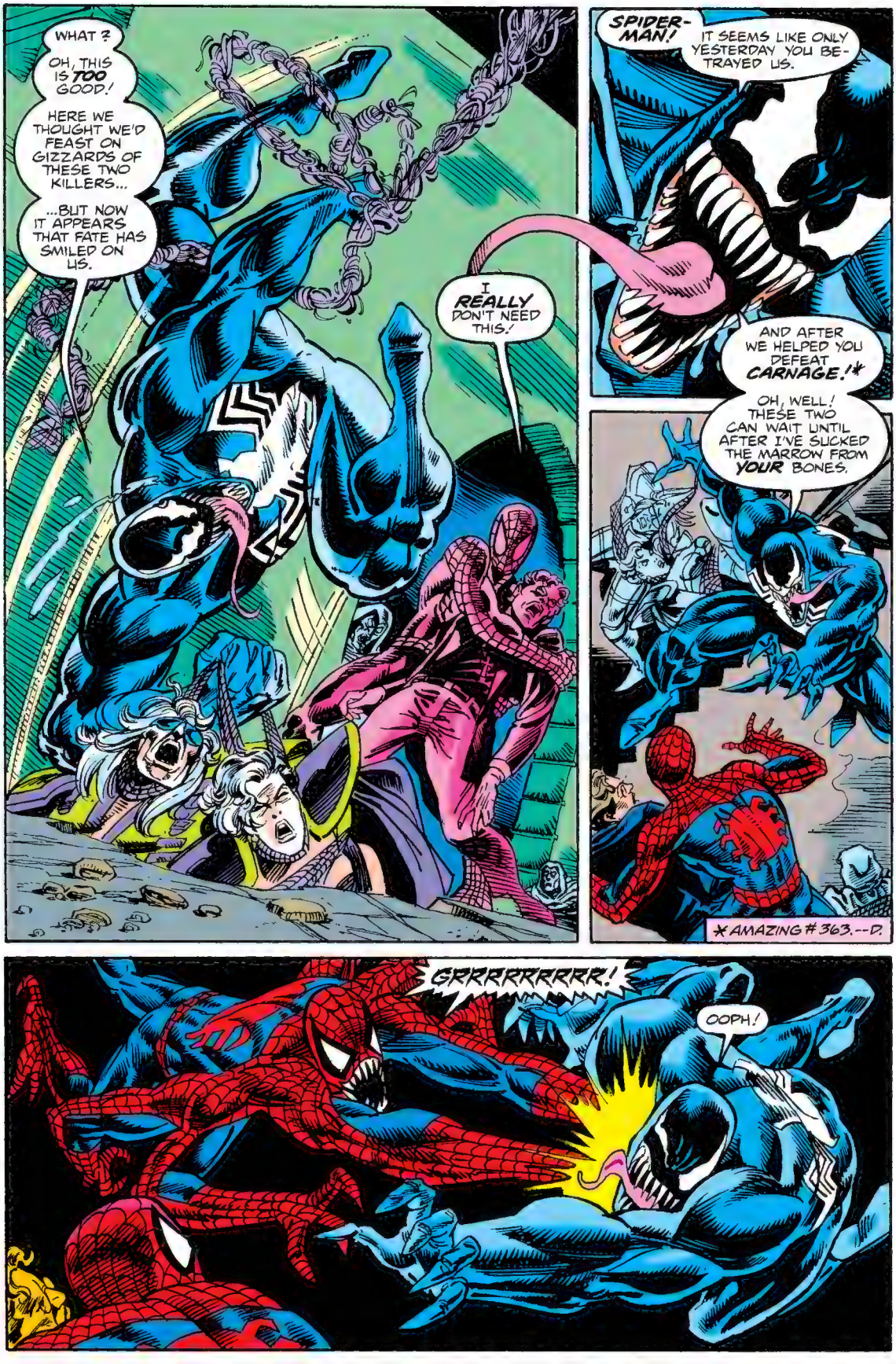

A SHORT TIME LATER...
A TRULY MAJESTIC EDIFICE...
...ONE WORTHY OF THE PURE OF HEART.
ONE WORTHY OF THE FIRST STEPS IN MY MISSION HERE ON EARTH...
...THE DEATH OF ALL DEMONS.
STOP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS IS A CHURCH. HALLOWED GROUND. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR YOUR KIND HERE.
RAAAARRHH!
BLESSED FATHER, PROTECT ME!


NO! MINDLESS ONE!
THE HOLY ONE MUST NOT BE HARMED ONLY THE SINNERS.
I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE THIS CHURCH!
NO, PRIEST! THE DEMON TAINT IS IN THE AIR! I WILL REMOVE ITS SOURCE FROM YOUR HALLOWED GROUND.
PERHAPS IT IS YOUR OWN EVIL SCENT THAT YOU SMELL? PERHAPS IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD BE DESTROYED?
PERHAPS. BUT THAT IS A TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED..
...ONLY AFTER ALL OTHER DEMONS HAVE FALLEN.
WHAT HAS THE FATHER DONE? HE SAID HE WAS GOING FOR BLANKETS.
LET GO OF HIM, MONSTER!
WITH PLEASURE-- FOR HIS IS NOT THE DEATH WHICH I SEEK.

ELSEWHERE...
WHO'RE OUR FRIENDS, BOYS ?
THEY ARE THE SPAWN OF THE DEMON DEATH-WATCH!
THEY LIVE ONLY TO KILL.
I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN HUMAN BEFORE DEATH-WATCH GOT A HOLD OF THEM.
BOOM BOOM BOOM
WE DON'T REALLY CARE WHO THEY ARE, OR WE'RE THEY COME FROM. IF THEY'RE PROTECTING THESE TWO KILLERS...
...THEY'RE GOING TO DIE!
WE'LL TAKE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.
YES. THERE ARE OTHER INNOCENT LIVES AT RISK IN THESE TUNNELS.
THEY MUST NOT FALL TO THE DEATH-SPAWN.
CATCHY NAME, BUT...
...VENOM, IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, WE COULD USE SOME HELP OVER HERE ?
HELP YOURSELF! WE'VE GOT OUR OWN AGENDA.

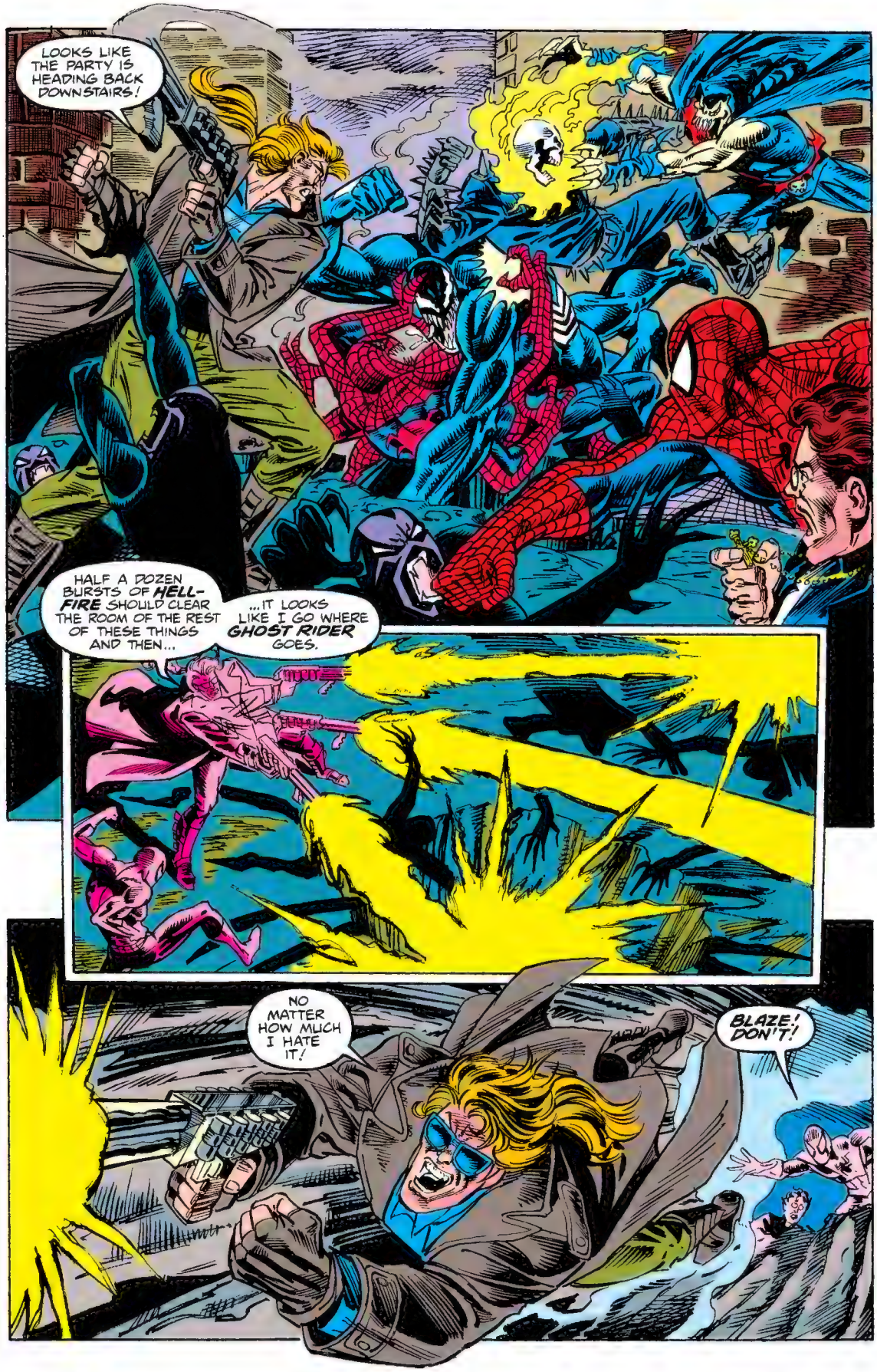

FINE! I WILL! GET THAT CHAIN READY, GHOST RIDER, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE-- WITHOUT VENOM'S HELP.
BOOM BOOM
COME ON! THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!
LET'S AT LEAST TAKE THE HIGH GROUND THROUGH THE HOLE I BLASTED!
WHAT A SPLENDID IDEA!
WE COULD USE A LITTLE SOLITUDE WHILE WE KILL THESE TWO!
YOU ALL TAKE CARE NOW...
...'BYE!

AT THAT MOMENT...
YOU WANTED THE PRIEST, SPIDER-MAN? TAKE HIM!
I GIVE YOU HIS LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT OF MACENDALE!
FATHER!
BOOM
SEE, SINNER, THE FIERY PITS BECKON FOR YOU!
IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ROT IN--
OH, NO! I DON'T NEED THIS TONIGHT!


WHAT ?
OH, THIS IS TOO GOOD!
HERE WE THOUGHT WE'D FEAST ON GIZZARDS OF THESE TWO KILLERS...
...BUT NOW IT APPEARS THAT FATE HAS SMILED ON US.
I REALLY DON'T NEED THIS!
SPIDER-MAN!
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY YOU BETRAYED US.
AND AFTER WE HELPED YOU DEFEAT CARNAGE!*
OH, WELL! THESE TWO CAN WAIT UNTIL AFTER I'VE SUCKED THE MARROW FROM YOUR BONES.
*AMAZING #363.--D.
GRRRRRRRRR!
OOPH!

IT APPEARS THAT MY MINDLESS SERVANT IS FEELING PROTECTIVE OF YOU, SPIDER-MAN...
...OR PERHAPS HE IS SAVING YOU FOR HIMSELF ?
NOW, MACENDALE...
BOOM
BLAZE ? GHOST RIDER ?
YEAH, GREAT RUNNING INTO YOU, TOO!
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE RUN INTO VENOM? I'VE GOT A THING OR TWO I'D LIKE TO SAY TO HIM!
BOOM BOOM BOOM
NO KIDDING ?
WHO'S HE ?
DEMONS!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE INTRODUCED.

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED!
TONIGHT, ONE OF THE TRUE DEMONKIND SHALL FALL BY HANDS.
DIE, ZARATHOS!
NOW HE'S DONE IT! GHOST RIDER HATES BEING CALLED ZARATHOS.
BOY, IS OLD ORANGE-FACE IN TROUBLE NOW!
CAN THE WITTY COMMENTS, BLAZE. THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY DEPARTMENT. WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?
IT'S A LONG STORY.
I CAN TELL YOU THEY'RE NOT THE GOOD GUYS AND...
...THEY'D LIKE TO SEE US ALL DEAD.
SPIDER-MAN!
HELP ME!


LOOKS LIKE THE PARTY IS HEADING BACK DOWNSTAIRS!
HALF A DOZEN BURSTS OF HELL-FIRE SHOULD CLEAR THE ROOM OF THE REST OF THESE THINGS AND THEN...
...IT LOOKS LIKE I GO WHERE GHOST RIDER GOES.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HATE IT!
BLAZE! DON'T!

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THAT REALLY HAPPENED, FATHER.
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY THINKING OF GOING DOWN THERE TO JOIN THE MADNESS.
SOME OF THOSE FIGHTING DOWN THERE HAVE BEEN MY ALLIES...
... MORE ARE MY ENEMIES.
ENEMIES THAT WOULD JUST AS SOON SEE ME DEAD IN THOSE TUNNELS.
I HAVE A WIFE. A FAMILY. HOW CAN I TAKE THE RISK?
NO ONE WILL THINK LESS OF YOU.
ALL I SAY IS...
... FOLLOW YOUR HEART. IT WILL TELL YOU WHAT IS RIGHT.
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN. YOU'VE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES. YOU...
FATHER!
ALL RIGHT ALREADY! YOU MADE YOUR POINT!
I'M GOING DOWN INTO THIS FIGHT... WHATEVER IT IS.
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME!
CONTINUED IN SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5, AND THEN NEXT MONTH IN WEB #96 WITH GHOST RIDER AND BLAZE STILL ALONG! (AND DON'T MISS THE MARK TEXEIRA PAINTED COVER!)

MARVEL COMICS
GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE
VENOM
PART 2 OF 4
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01927
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ADAM KUBERT

GHOST RIDER: A RELENTLESS AND UNFORGIVING DEMONIC FORCE OF RETRIBUTION. JOHN BLAZE: A MAN WHO ESCAPED HIS OWN DEMONIC CURSE, ONLY TO BE TEAMED WITH THE ENTITY HE ONCE VOWED TO DESTROY. TOGETHER THEY TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, FIGHTING THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT. THEY ARE. . ..

GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

IT'S SO DARK.
WHERE AM I?

HEAD IS THROBBING...
...MUST HAVE HIT...

...BUT THE DARKNESS?
SURROUNDING ME.

CRUSHING ME.
TEARING AT ME.

THE DARKNESS!
NOW I REMEMBER!

CLK

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

THE DEATHSPAWN!
WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?

THIS THING HAS GOTTEN WAY OUT OF HAND.

WE CAME LOOKING TO STOP *HAG* AND *TROLL* AND SAVE A FEW LIVES...

...INSTEAD WE'RE OVER-WHELMED BY THESE THINGS THAT *DEATHWATCH* CREATED AND...

...STUMBLE INTO THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF *SPIDER-MAN'S* BATTLES!*

NOW BESIDES THE GHOULS WE STARTED OUT WITH WE'VE GOT *TWO HOBGOBLINS*, ONE UGLIER THAN THE OTHER.

AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COUPLE OF *SPIDER-MAN* CLONES!

VENOM AND THAT THING WITH ALL THE ARMS.

THIS ISN'T TURNING OUT TO BE A *REAL* GOOD NIGHT FOR ME!

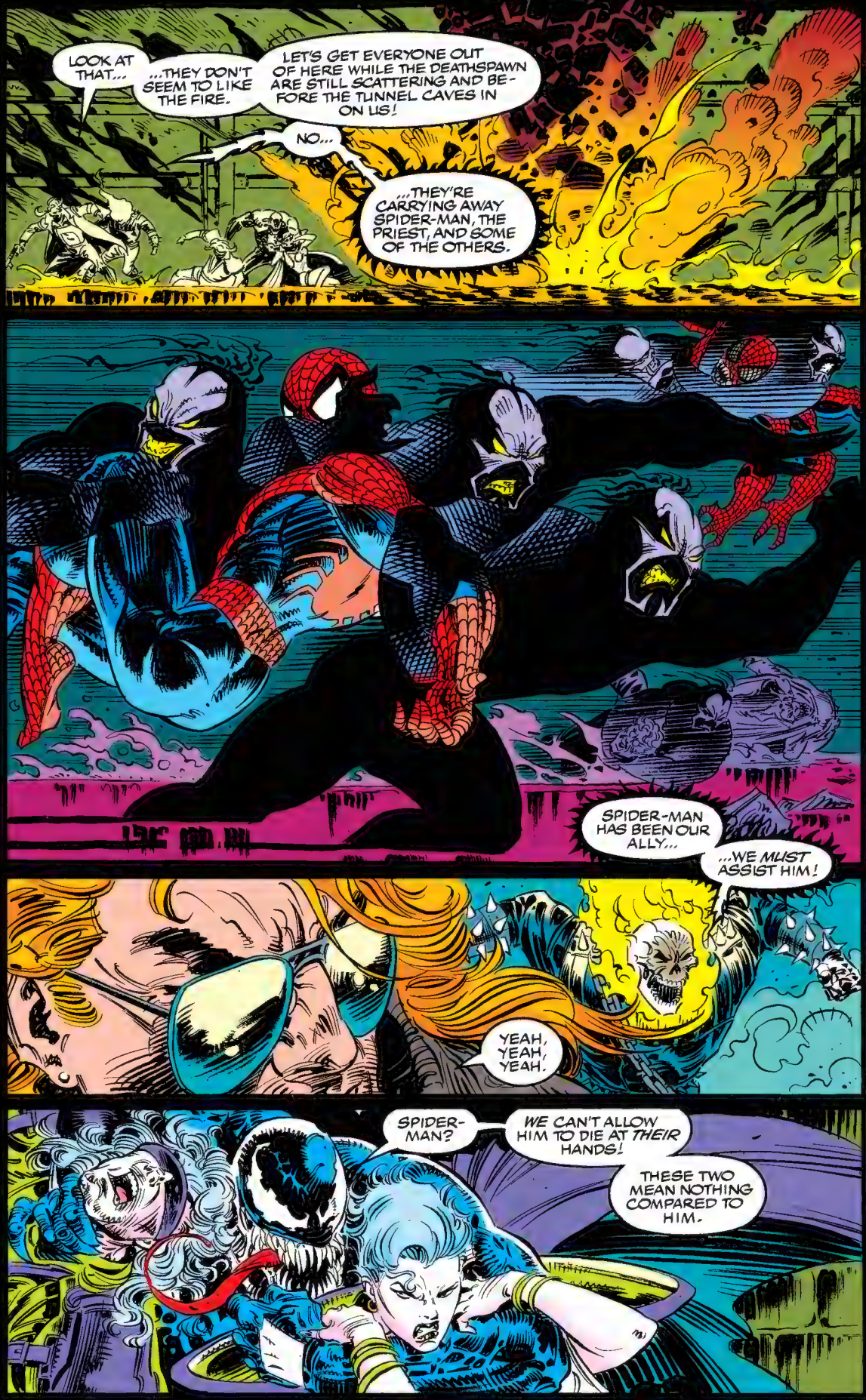
*WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #95.

CHASING SHADOWS

HOWARD MACKIE/ ADAM KUBERT/ BILL REINHOLD
MICHAEL HEISLER/ GREGORY WRIGHT
BOBBIE CHASE/ TOM DeFALCO

OVERALL THINGS AREN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD FOR THE GOOD GUYS.
CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO THE GOOD GUYS ARE...
...EXCEPT FOR THE PRIEST.
THE PRIEST?! WHAT ON EARTH IS HE DOING HERE?
THESE DEATHSPAWN ARE SWALLOWING US ALL UP.
CRUSHING THE BREATH OUT OF ME...
...AND PULLING US ALL DOWN.

DANGER
FLAMMABLE
CON ED
CLIK
DESPERATE TIMES...
...CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.
BOOM
FWOOM
AIIEEEEE


LOOK AT THAT...
...THEY DON'T SEEM TO LIKE THE FIRE.
LET'S GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE WHILE THE DEATHSPAWN ARE STILL SCATTERING AND BEFORE THE TUNNEL CAVES IN ON US!
NO...
...THEY'RE CARRYING AWAY SPIDER-MAN, THE PRIEST, AND SOME OF THE OTHERS.
SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN OUR ALLY...
...WE MUST ASSIST HIM!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.
SPIDER-MAN?
WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO DIE AT THEIR HANDS!
THESE TWO MEAN NOTHING COMPARED TO HIM.

OKAY!
EVERYONE STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO DO ALREADY!
I'LL STOP THEM.
NO! HE IS OURS!
WE CAN'T LET THEM TAKE HIM THROUGH THE...
BOOM
...WALLARRRR--
NOARRRRRR!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US?!
FIRE.
PAIN!

SORRY ABOUT THE NICK. HOPE IT DOESN'T HURT TOO MUCH!

BUT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE IT!

HANDLE IT?

PAIN WE CAN HANDLE. OUR LIFE HAS BEEN FILLED WITH PAIN.

BUT YOU STOPPED US FROM REACHING SPIDER-MAN...

...THE ONE WHO HAS CAUSED US ALL OUR PAIN.

FOR THAT...

...WE WILL HAVE YOUR SPINE!

TCHINK

A CHAIN?

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP US WITH A CHAIN?

FWAK

CLK

OUR DESIRE TO SEE SPIDER-MAN *SUFFER* AS HE HAS MADE US SUFFER GIVES US THE STRENGTH TO--

GET OVER IT.

YOU FEEL THE PAIN IN YOUR SIDE? THAT WAS FROM A GRAZE.

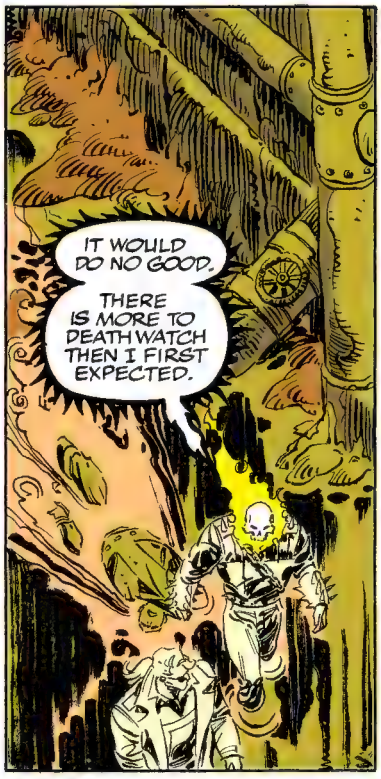
JUST THINK WHAT THIS BABY WILL DO TO YOUR HEAD.

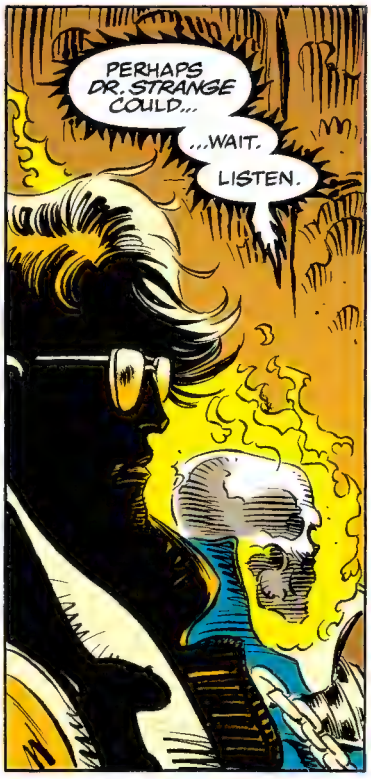
NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.

WHAT DO WE *WANT*?

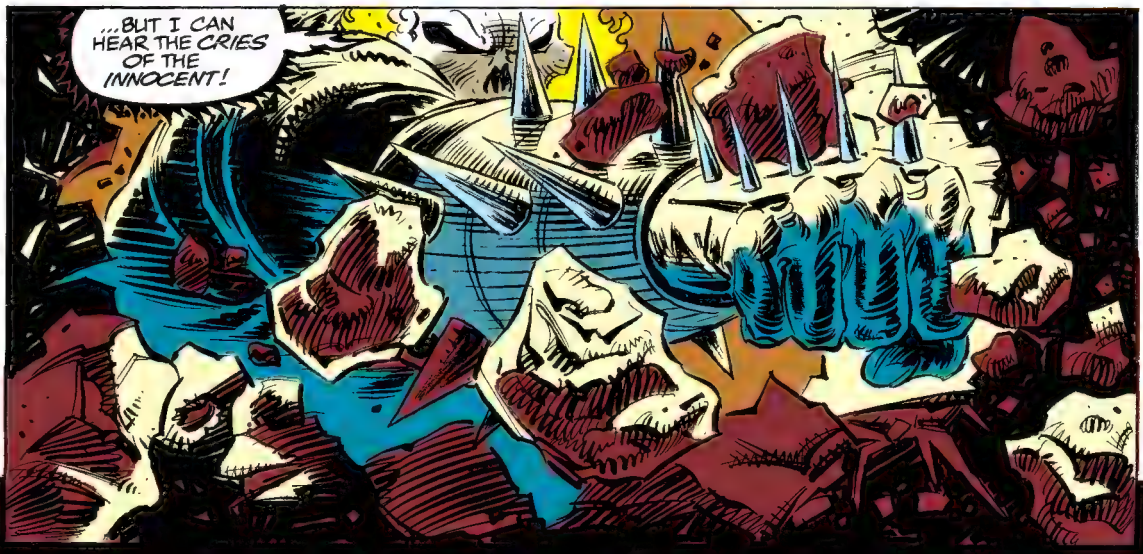
WE WANT VENGEANCE.
WE WANT THE KILLERS YOU HELPED TO ESCAPE.
WE WANT SPIDER-MAN'S BRAINS.
STAY OUT OF OUR WAY OR WE'LL SUCK THE BRAINS FROM YOUR HEAD AS WELL.
NICE!
YOU THINK HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?
OH, LOOK WHAT YOU FOUND!
YES.
NOW WE KNOW THAT HAG AND TROLL WILL BE BACK.

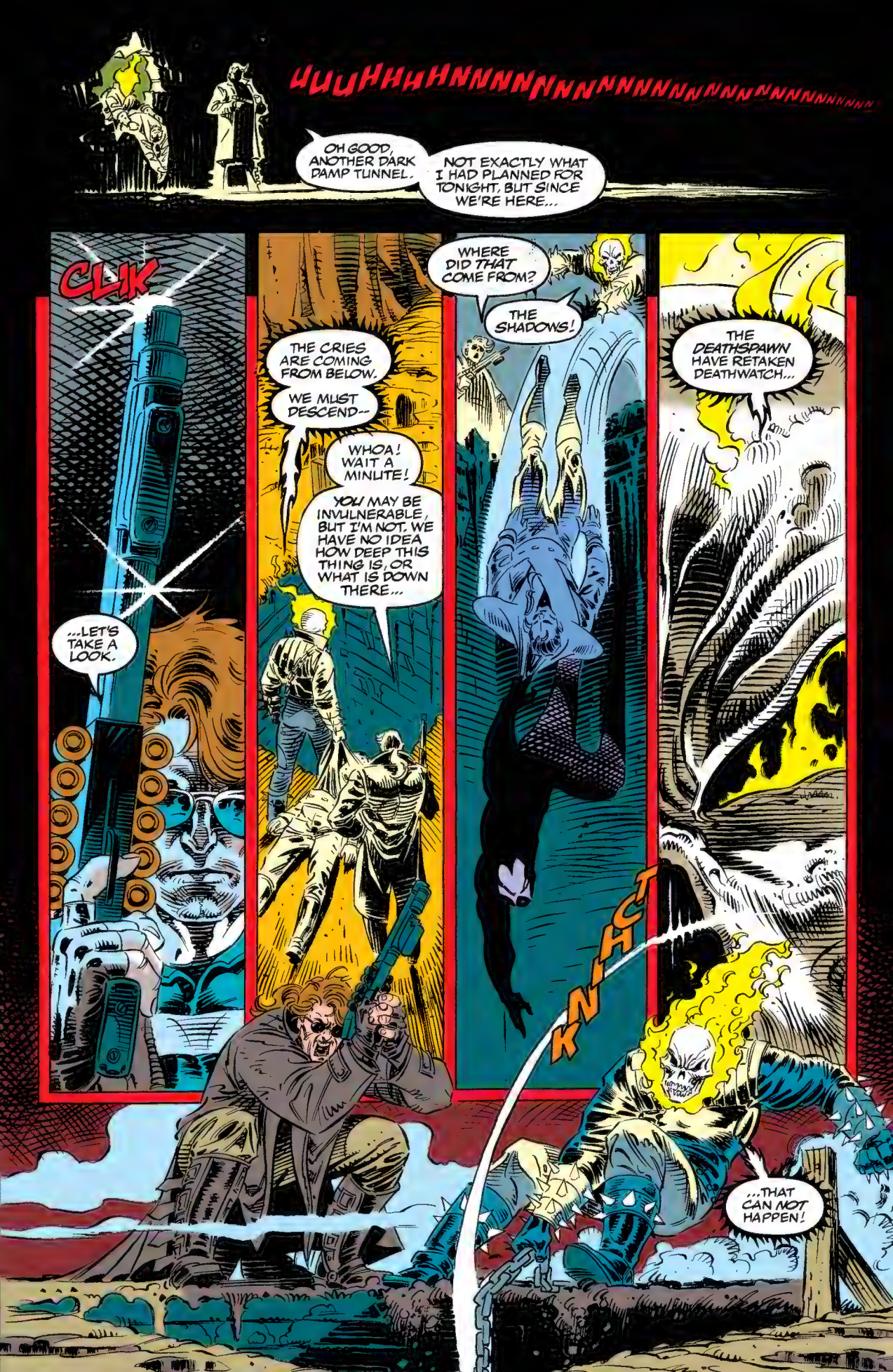
I BELIEVE THEY PLAN ON ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE DEATH-WATCH TO LIFE.
THIS IS WHY THEY HAVE HELD ONTO HIS LIFELESS BODY...
...AND WHY THOSE SHADOW CREATURES WANT HIM SO BADLY.
THEY ARE TIED TO THE DEMON.
THEY ARE HIS CHILDREN... HIS SPAWN.
LOOK, WHY DON'T I JUST SHOVE THE GUN IN HIS MOUTH, PULL THE TRIGGER, AND--


IT WOULD DO NO GOOD.
THERE IS MORE TO DEATH WATCH THEN I FIRST EXPECTED.


PERHAPS DR. STRANGE COULD...
...WAIT.
LISTEN.

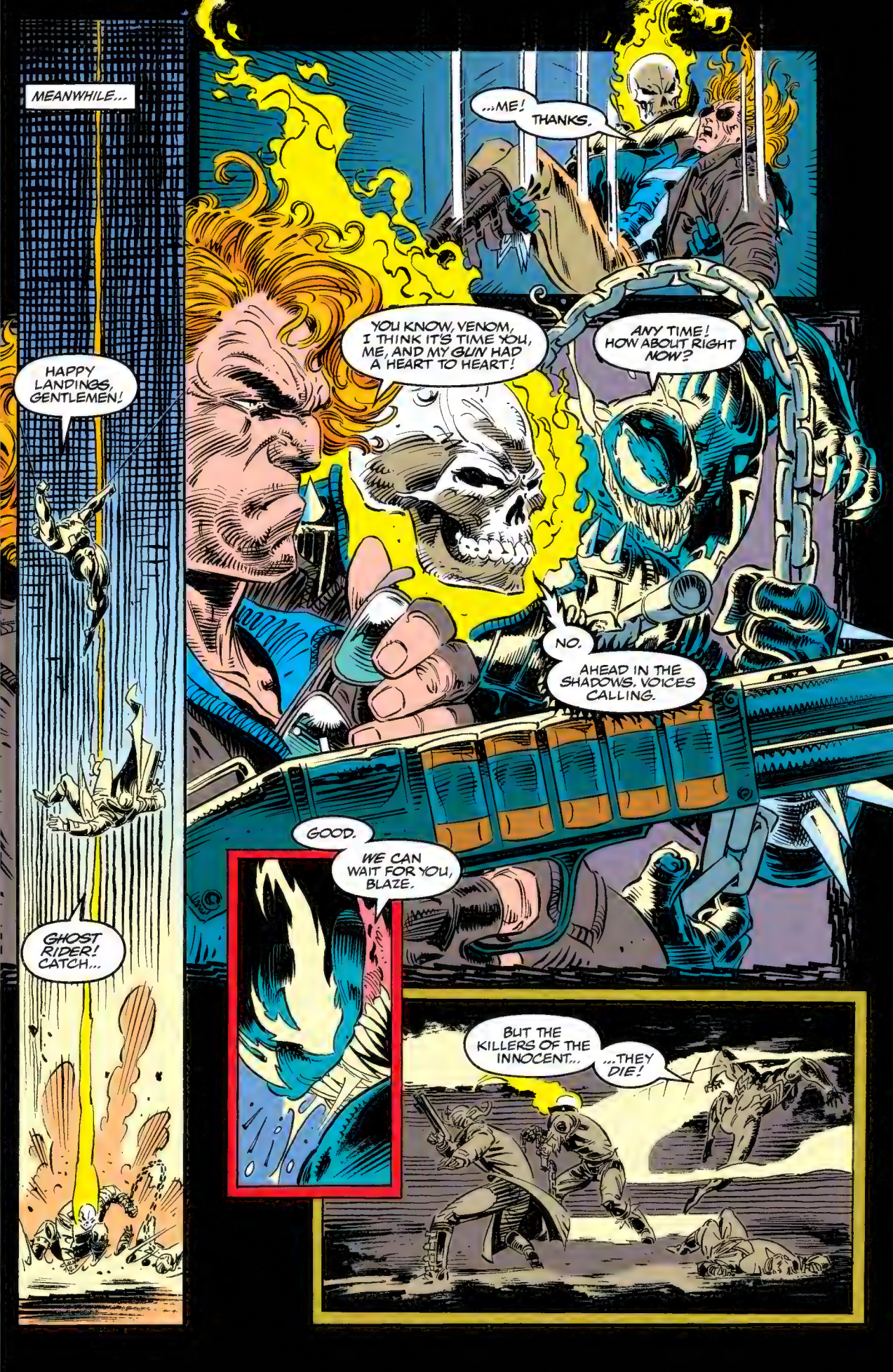
LISTEN? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY EARS!
NO...

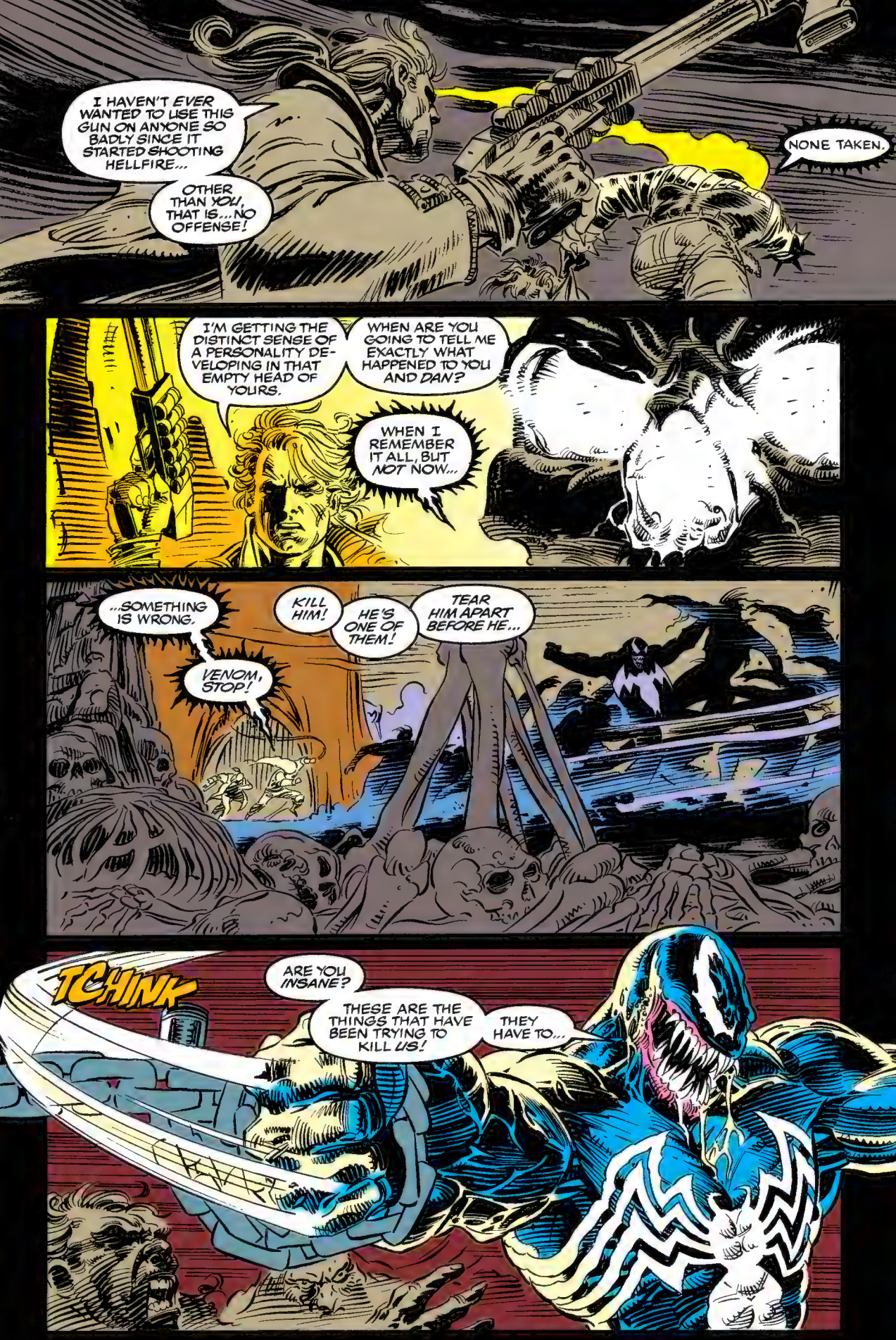

...BUT I CAN HEAR THE CRIES OF THE INNOCENT!


UUUHHHHNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
OH GOOD, ANOTHER DARK DAMP TUNNEL.
NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD PLANNED FOR TONIGHT, BUT SINCE WE'RE HERE...
CLIK
...LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
THE CRIES ARE COMING FROM BELOW.
WE MUST DESCEND--
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU MAY BE INVULNERABLE, BUT I'M NOT. WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW DEEP THIS THING IS, OR WHAT IS DOWN THERE...
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
THE SHADOWS!
THE DEATHSPAWN HAVE RETAKEN DEATHWATCH...
KNICT
...THAT CAN NOT HAPPEN!

I CAN'T.
LET IT GO. THE OTHER VICTIMS NEED US.
...WHEN WE CAN ALL FALL INTO THE DARKNESS TOGETHER?
AND WHY SHOULD HE...
UGH!
LAST ONE DOWN...
...IS DEAD!

DOVER, NEW JERSEY.
THE LATEST STOPOVER FOR THE QUENTIN CARNIVAL.
MS. MENNINGER?
TIMOTHY WOODS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THIS WEATHER?
GET IN OUT OF THE STORM.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY. Y'KNOW, THE STORM AND EVERY-THING.
TIM, I'M FINE...
...AND I'LL BE EVEN BETTER ONCE I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE IN YOUR OWN TRAILER.
NOW GO STRAIGHT HOME AND CALL TO ME WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR OWN...
...YOUR OWN...
WE'RE COMING.
BLAZE HAS BROUGHT DEATH TO YOU ALL.
NO.
WE SERVE HIM.
AND WE WON'T BE STOPPED.
NO...
...TIMMY!
CLARA?
MOM! DAD! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MS. MENNINGER!


MEANWHILE...
HAPPY LANDINGS, GENTLEMEN!
GHOST RIDER! CATCH...
...ME! THANKS.
YOU KNOW, VENOM, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU, ME, AND MY GUN HAD A HEART TO HEART!
ANY TIME! HOW ABOUT RIGHT NOW?
NO. AHEAD IN THE SHADOWS. VOICES CALLING.
GOOD. WE CAN WAIT FOR YOU, BLAZE.
BUT THE KILLERS OF THE INNOCENT...
...THEY DIE!


I HAVEN'T EVER WANTED TO USE THIS GUN ON ANYONE SO BADLY SINCE IT STARTED SHOOTING HELLFIRE...
OTHER THAN YOU, THAT IS... NO OFFENSE!
NONE TAKEN.
I'M GETTING THE DISTINCT SENSE OF A PERSONALITY DEVELOPING IN THAT EMPTY HEAD OF YOURS.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND DAN?
WHEN I REMEMBER IT ALL, BUT NOT NOW...
...SOMETHING IS WRONG.
VENOM, STOP!
KILL HIM!
HE'S ONE OF THEM!
TEAR HIM APART BEFORE HE...
TCHINK
ARE YOU INSANE?
THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO KILL US!
THEY HAVE TO...

...DIE?
YOU'RE NOT THE DEATHSPAWN. WHAT ARE YOU?
FOOD.
THEY'VE BEEN TAKING US FROM THE STREETS FOR MONTHS NOW.
WE GET ENOUGH TO EAT TO KEEP US ALIVE AND THEN...
...A BUNCH OF THEM WILL SHOW UP AND SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF WHOEVER THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON.
THEN THEY DISAPPEAR. WE NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY'LL BE BACK...
...WHEN IT WILL ALL END.
IT ENDS TONIGHT. WE'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
YES. AND IF ANY OF THE DEATHSPAWN SHOW THEIR FACES WE'LL...
OH, YEAH!
REAL SUPER HEROES, huh?
WHAT MAKES YOU ANY DIFFERENT FROM THEM?

HI, GUYS! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, FATHER MARTIN, THE GENTLEMAN AT THE END...

...THE ONE WITHOUT AN UGLY SUIT, COULD USE A HAND!

I THINK WE'D ALL BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF THE OTHER THREE STAYED WHERE THEY ARE.

WE'LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN A HAND!

ACTUALLY A HAND IS ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT OF YOU WHEN WE ARE THROUGH!

TCHINK

ACHHH!

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE OUR ENEMIES.

THESE PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP IF THEY ARE TO LIVE.

IS YOUR PERSONAL REVENGE AGAINST SPIDER-MAN WORTH MORE THAN INNOCENT LIVES?

LET...GO... OF... ME!

WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

NICE SPEECH, GHOST RIDER.

BUT NOTHING IS LEAVING OUR PRIVATE PANTRY.

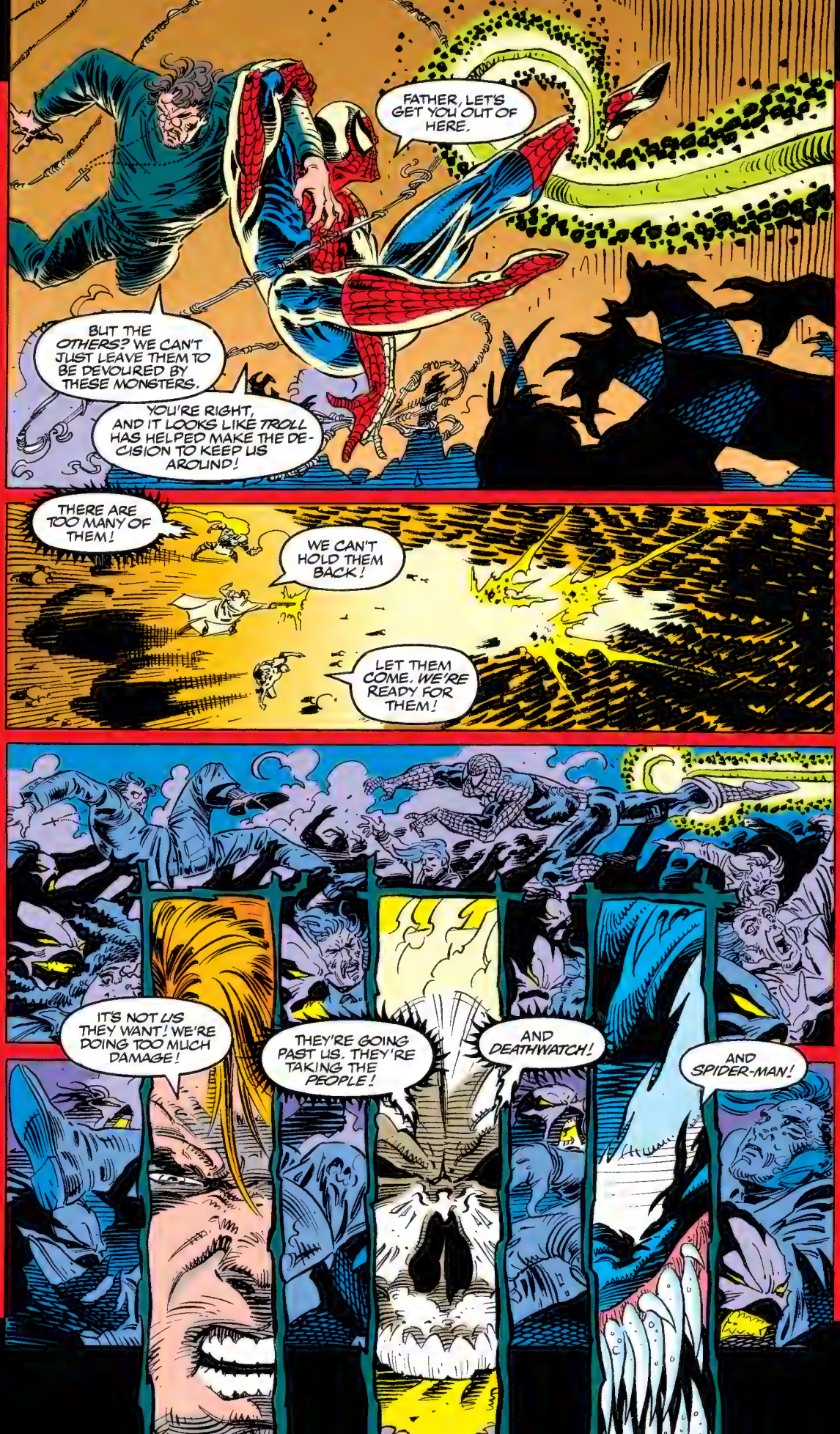
WE GIVE DEATHWATCH OVER TO YOU AND THEN, WHAT... WE CAN ALL JUST LEAVE, RIGHT?

WE NEED ALL THE LIFE FORCE WE CAN GATHER IF WE ARE TO RES-URRECT DEATHWATCH!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!


FATHER, LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
BUT THE OTHERS? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO BE DEVOURED BY THESE MONSTERS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, AND IT LOOKS LIKE TROLL HAS HELPED MAKE THE DECISION TO KEEP US AROUND!
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!
WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK!
LET THEM COME. WE'RE READY FOR THEM!
IT'S NOT US THEY WANT! WE'RE DOING TOO MUCH DAMAGE!
THEY'RE GOING PAST US. THEY'RE TAKING THE PEOPLE!
AND DEATHWATCH!
AND SPIDER-MAN!

DEATHWATCH!
I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE HIM FROM ME AGAIN!
NO.
THE DEATHSPAWN ARE TAKING HIM IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION FROM THE REST.
NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE.
WHO ARE YOU FIGHTING... AND WHY?
DEATHWATCH? HE'S DEAD! OR CLOSE TO IT.
BUT THOSE PEOPLE... THEM WE CAN STILL SAVE.
YOU DECIDE.

DEATHWATCH WILL BE MINE AGAIN!

BUT I WILL *NOT* SEE ANY MORE *BLOOD* SPILLED IN HIS NAME!

WE ARE GOING FOR THE SPIDER KILLER!

DOES THIS MAKE US A TEAM?

NOT EVEN CLOSE!

TO BE CONTINUED in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #96 and CONCLUDED in GHOST RIDER & BLAZE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6!

MARVEL COMICS
SPIRITS OF VENOM PART 3
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
GUEST-STARRING: GHOST RIDER! JOHN BLAZE! VENOM!
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$1.25 US
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96
JAN
02527
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
TEX

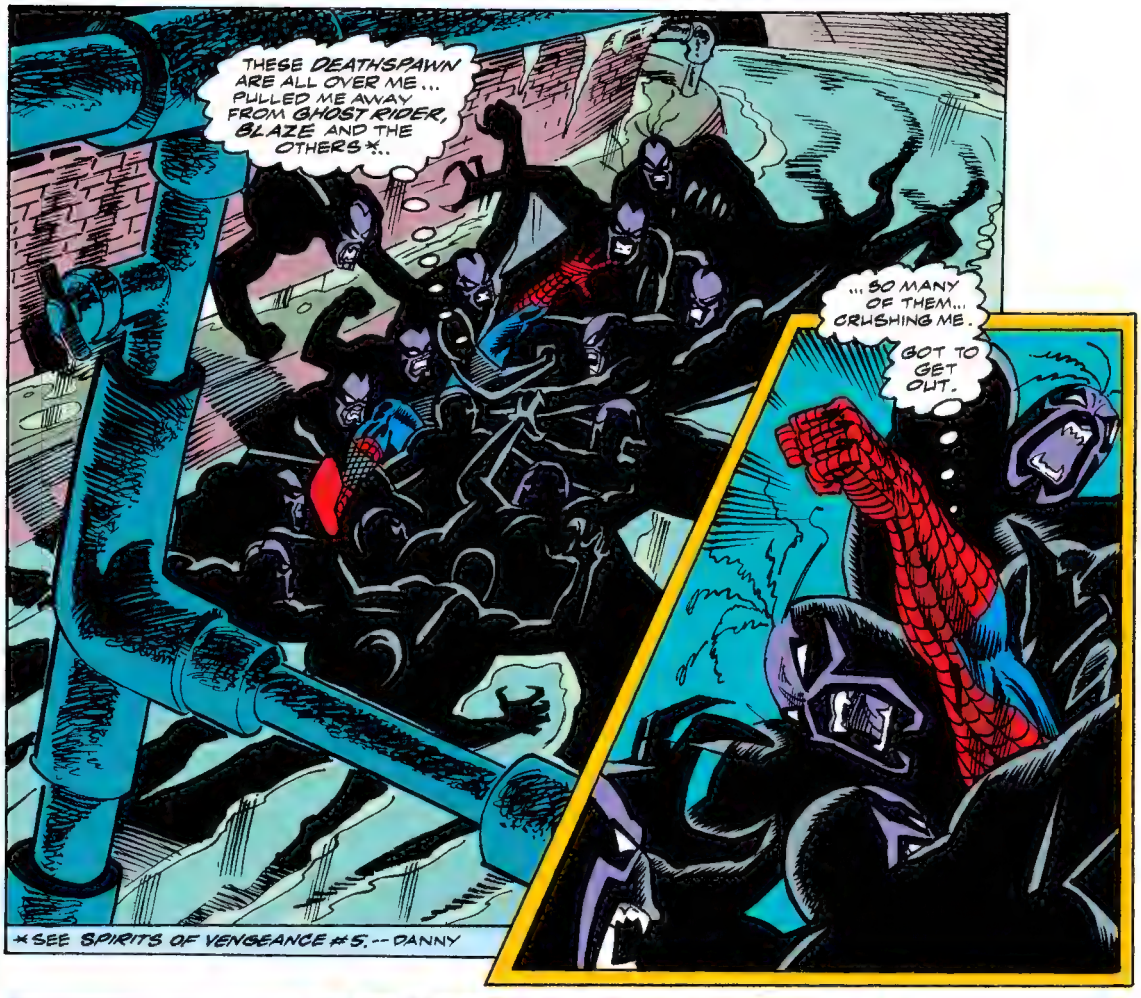
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN**™

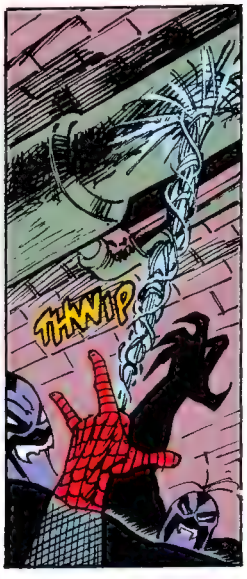
SPIRITS OF VENOM
PART 3

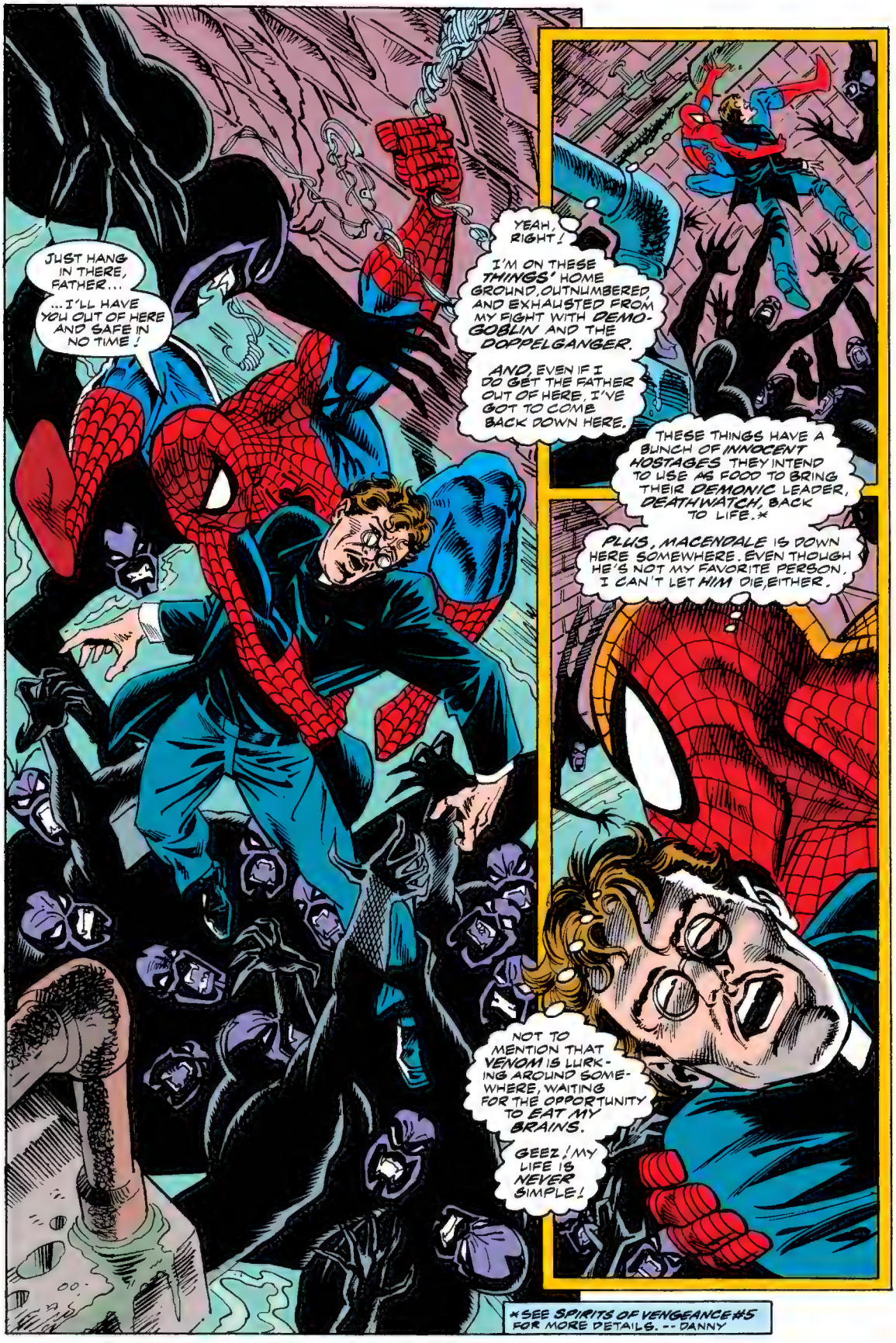
ENEMIES: A HATE STORY

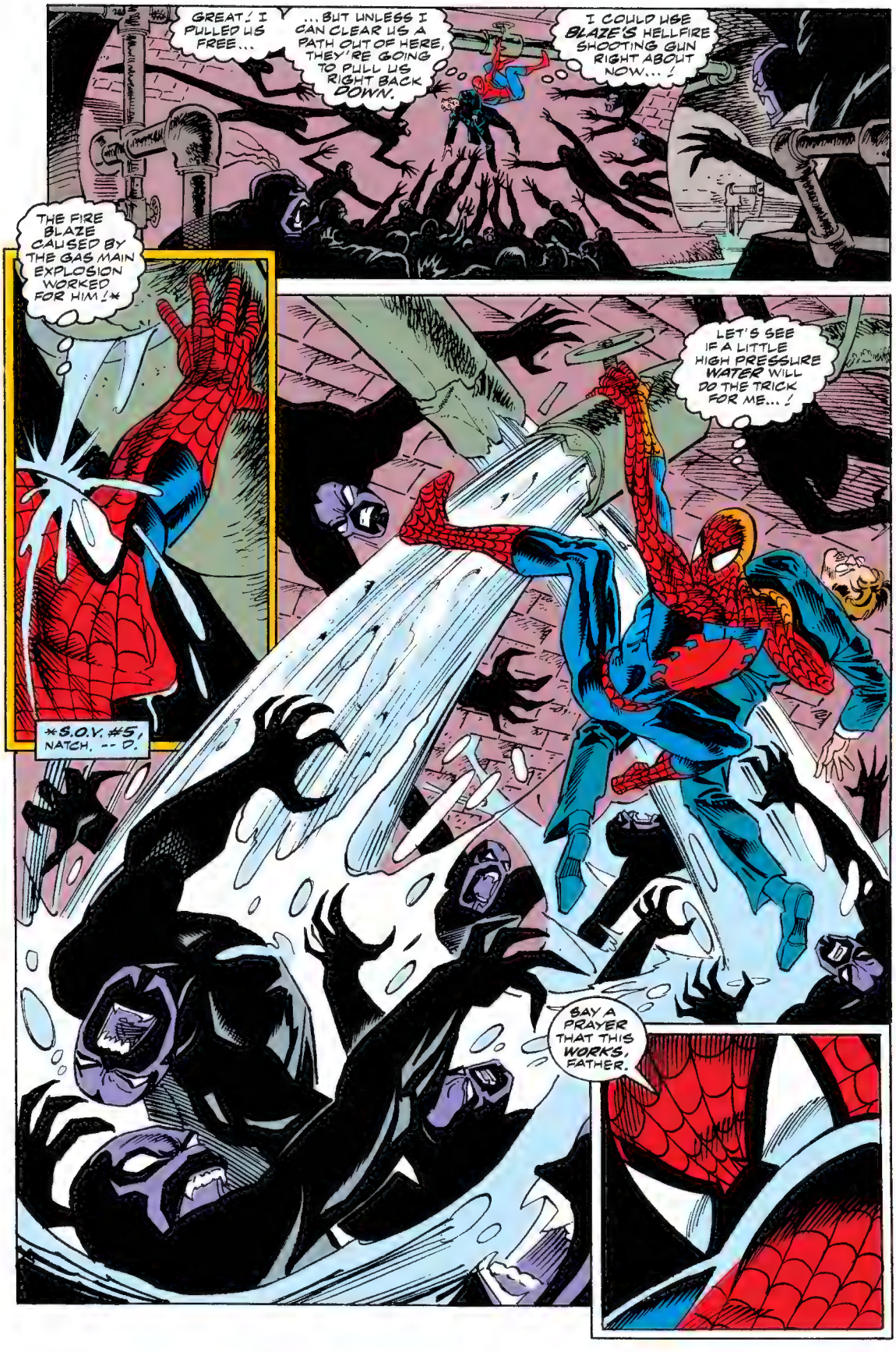
HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • ALEX SAVIUK BREAKDOWNS • J. RUBINSTEIN / D. PANOSIAN FINISHERS • STEVE DUTRO LETTERER • SHAREN & WITTERSTAETTER COLORISTS • DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


THESE DEATHSPAWN ARE ALL OVER ME... PULLED ME AWAY FROM GHOST RIDER, BLAZE AND THE OTHERS*...
...SO MANY OF THEM... CRUSHING ME.
GOT TO GET OUT.
*SEE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5. -- DANNY

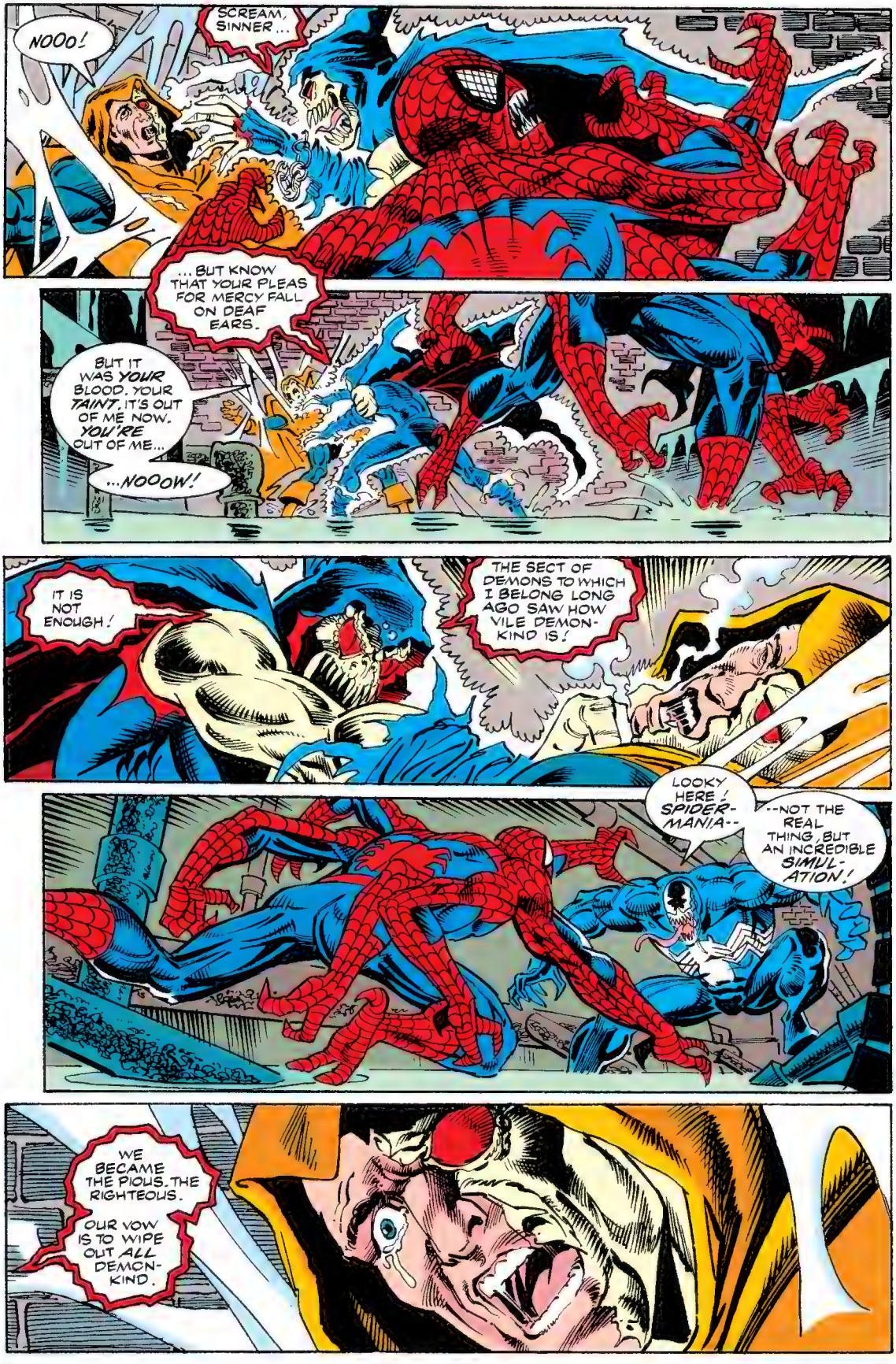
NEED ROOM TO MANEUVER...
...TO BREATHE!

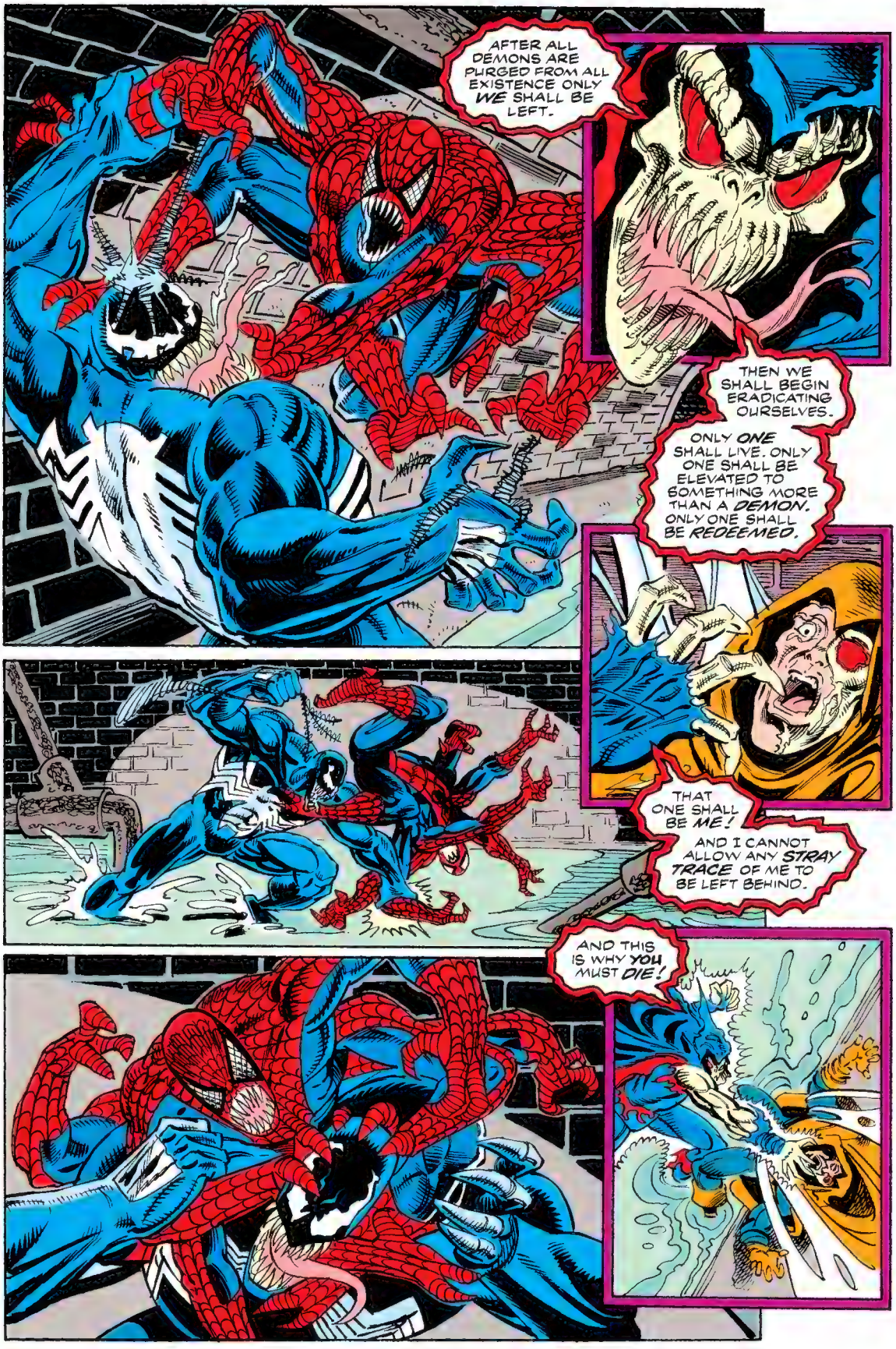

THWIP

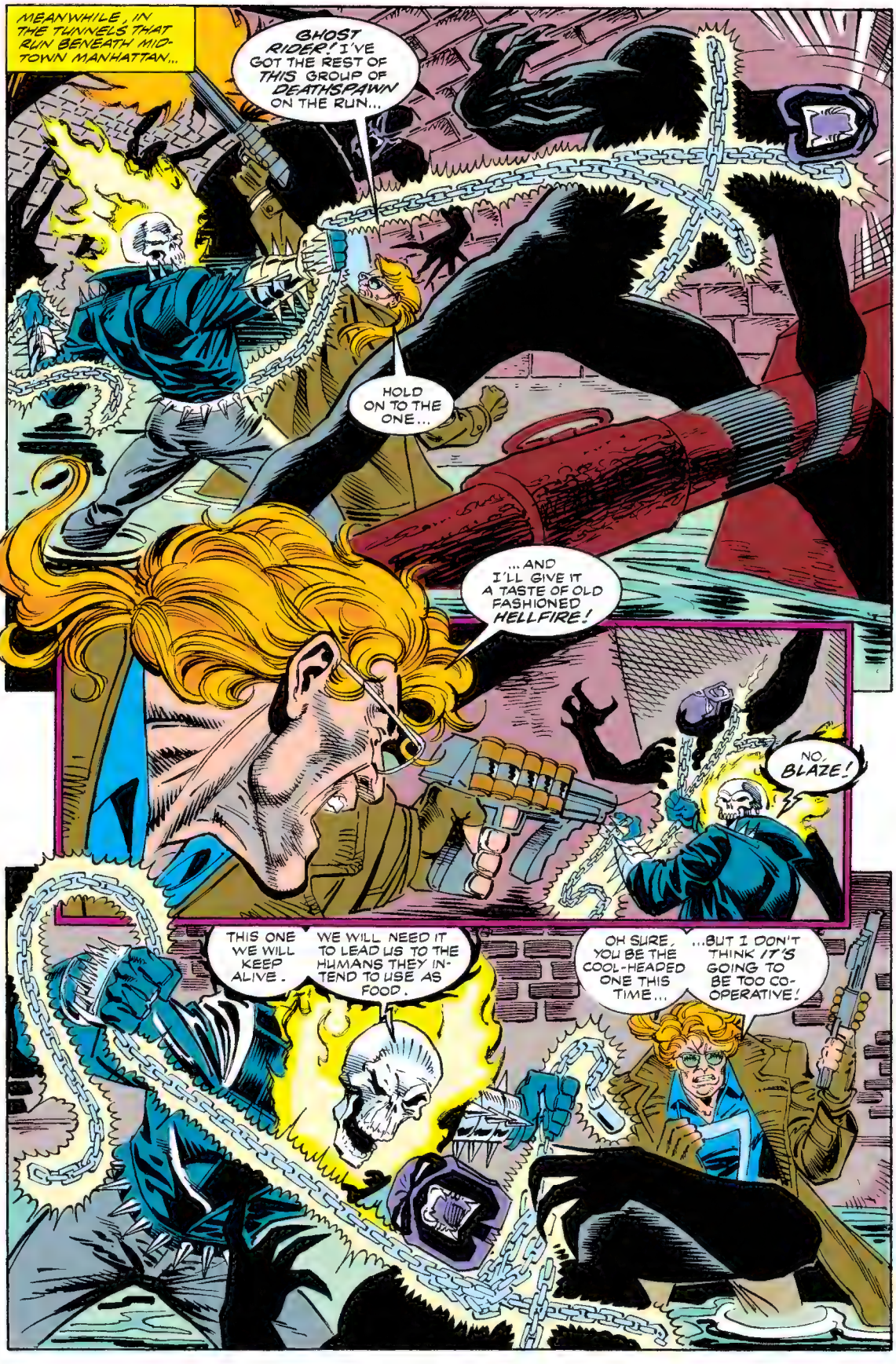

JUST HANG IN THERE, FATHER...
...I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE AND SAFE IN NO TIME!
YEAH, RIGHT!
I'M ON THESE THINGS' HOME GROUND, OUTNUMBERED, AND EXHAUSTED FROM MY FIGHT WITH DEMOGOBLIN AND THE DOPPELGANGER.
AND, EVEN IF I DO GET THE FATHER OUT OF HERE, I'VE GOT TO COME BACK DOWN HERE.
THESE THINGS HAVE A BUNCH OF INNOCENT HOSTAGES THEY INTEND TO USE AS FOOD TO BRING THEIR DEMONIC LEADER, DEATHWATCH, BACK TO LIFE.*
PLUS, MACENDALE IS DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE. EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT MY FAVORITE PERSON, I CAN'T LET HIM DIE, EITHER.
NOT TO MENTION THAT VENOM IS LURKING AROUND SOMEWHERE, WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EAT MY BRAINS.
GEEZ! MY LIFE IS NEVER SIMPLE!
*SEE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #5 FOR MORE DETAILS. -- DANNY


GREAT! I PULLED US FREE...
...BUT UNLESS I CAN CLEAR US A PATH OUT OF HERE, THEY'RE GOING TO PULL US RIGHT BACK DOWN.
I COULD USE BLAZE'S HELLFIRE SHOOTING GUN RIGHT ABOUT NOW...!
THE FIRE BLAZE CAUSED BY THE GAS MAIN EXPLOSION WORKED FOR HIM!*
*S.O.V. #5, NATCH. -- D.
LET'S SEE IF A LITTLE HIGH PRESSURE WATER WILL DO THE TRICK FOR ME...!
SAY A PRAYER THAT THIS WORKS, FATHER.

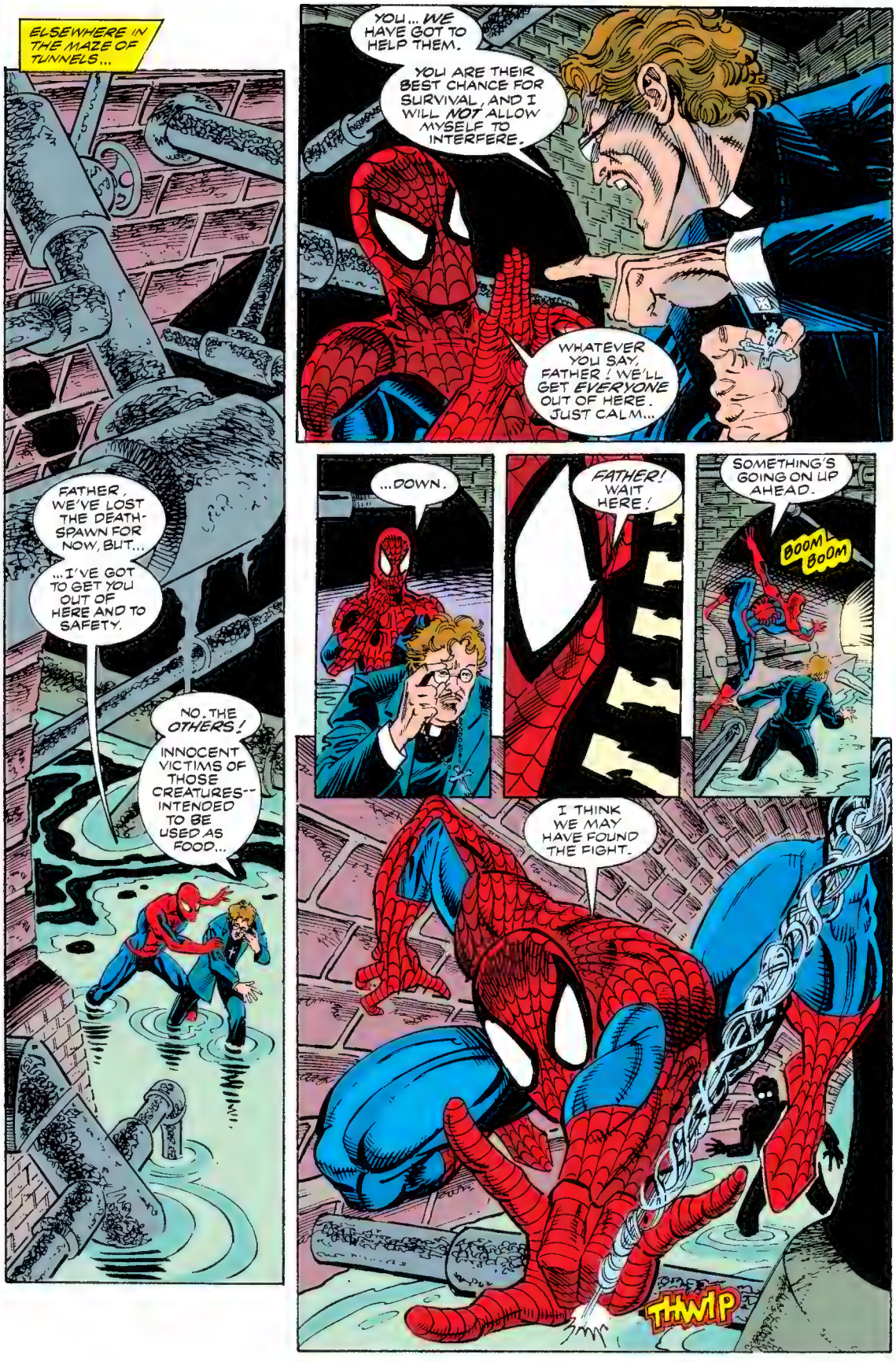
WE'LL KILL THE SPIDER AND ANY WHO STAND IN OUR WAY.
WE'LL KILL HAG AND TROLL FOR WHAT THEY DID TO THE GUARDSMEN.
KILL ALL THESE DEATHSPAWN BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE ANY MORE INNOCENT LIVES!
KILL...
THIS LOOKS INTERESTING.
STOP, MINDLESS ONE.
NOW THAT I HAVE FREED US FROM THESE PITIFUL DEMONIC BONDS, MACENDALE IS MINE.
DON'T KILL ME!
ALL YOUR DEMONIC BLOOD IS OUT OF ME.
I'LL SIN NO MORE!
THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.
ONLY THROUGH THE PAIN OF DEATH WILL THE DEMONIC TAINT BE CLEANSED.
IT IS MY DESTINY TO RID THIS AND ALL WORLDS OF EVERY TRACE OF DEMONIC BLOOD!


NOOO!
SCREAM, SINNER...
...BUT KNOW THAT YOUR PLEAS FOR MERCY FALL ON DEAF EARS.
BUT IT WAS *YOUR* BLOOD. YOUR *TAINT*. IT'S OUT OF ME NOW. *YOU'RE* OUT OF ME...
...NOOOW!
IT IS NOT ENOUGH!
THE SECT OF DEMONS TO WHICH I BELONG LONG AGO SAW HOW VILE DEMON-KIND IS!
LOOKY HERE! *SPIDER-MANIA*--
--NOT THE REAL THING, BUT AN INCREDIBLE *SIMUL-ATION*!
WE BECAME THE PIOUS. THE RIGHTEOUS.
OUR VOW IS TO WIPE OUT *ALL* DEMON-KIND.


AFTER ALL DEMONS ARE PURGED FROM ALL EXISTENCE ONLY WE SHALL BE LEFT.
THEN WE SHALL BEGIN ERADICATING OURSELVES.
ONLY ONE SHALL LIVE. ONLY ONE SHALL BE ELEVATED TO SOMETHING MORE THAN A DEMON. ONLY ONE SHALL BE REDEEMED.
THAT ONE SHALL BE ME!
AND I CANNOT ALLOW ANY STRAY TRACE OF ME TO BE LEFT BEHIND.
AND THIS IS WHY YOU MUST DIE!

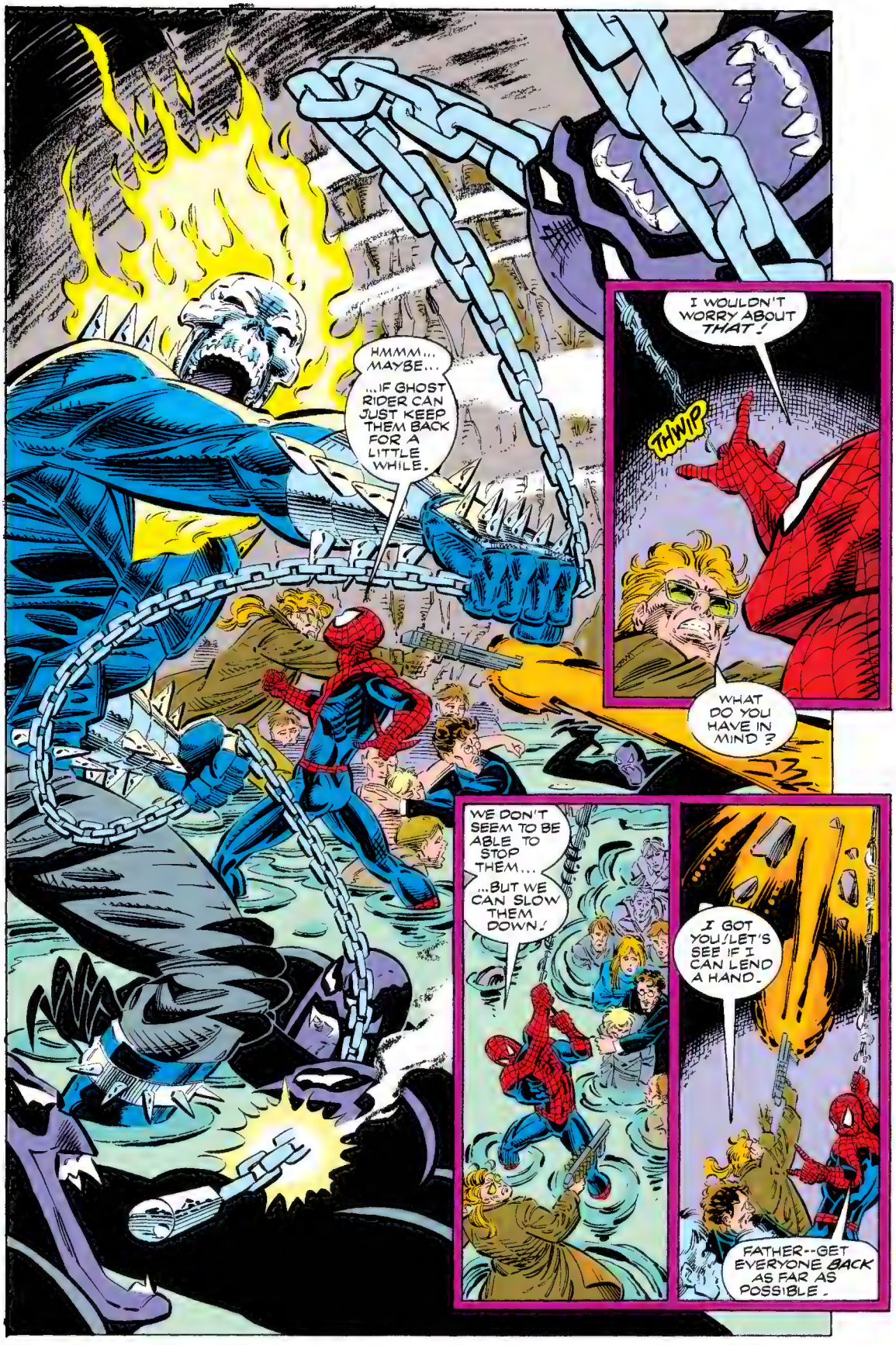

MEANWHILE, IN THE TUNNELS THAT RUN BENEATH MID-TOWN MANHATTAN...
GHOST RIDER! I'VE GOT THE REST OF THIS GROUP OF DEATHSPAWN ON THE RUN...
HOLD ON TO THE ONE...
...AND I'LL GIVE IT A TASTE OF OLD FASHIONED HELLFIRE!
NO, BLAZE!
THIS ONE WE WILL KEEP ALIVE.
WE WILL NEED IT TO LEAD US TO THE HUMANS THEY INTEND TO USE AS FOOD.
OH SURE, YOU BE THE COOL-HEADED ONE THIS TIME...
...BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BE TOO CO-OPERATIVE!

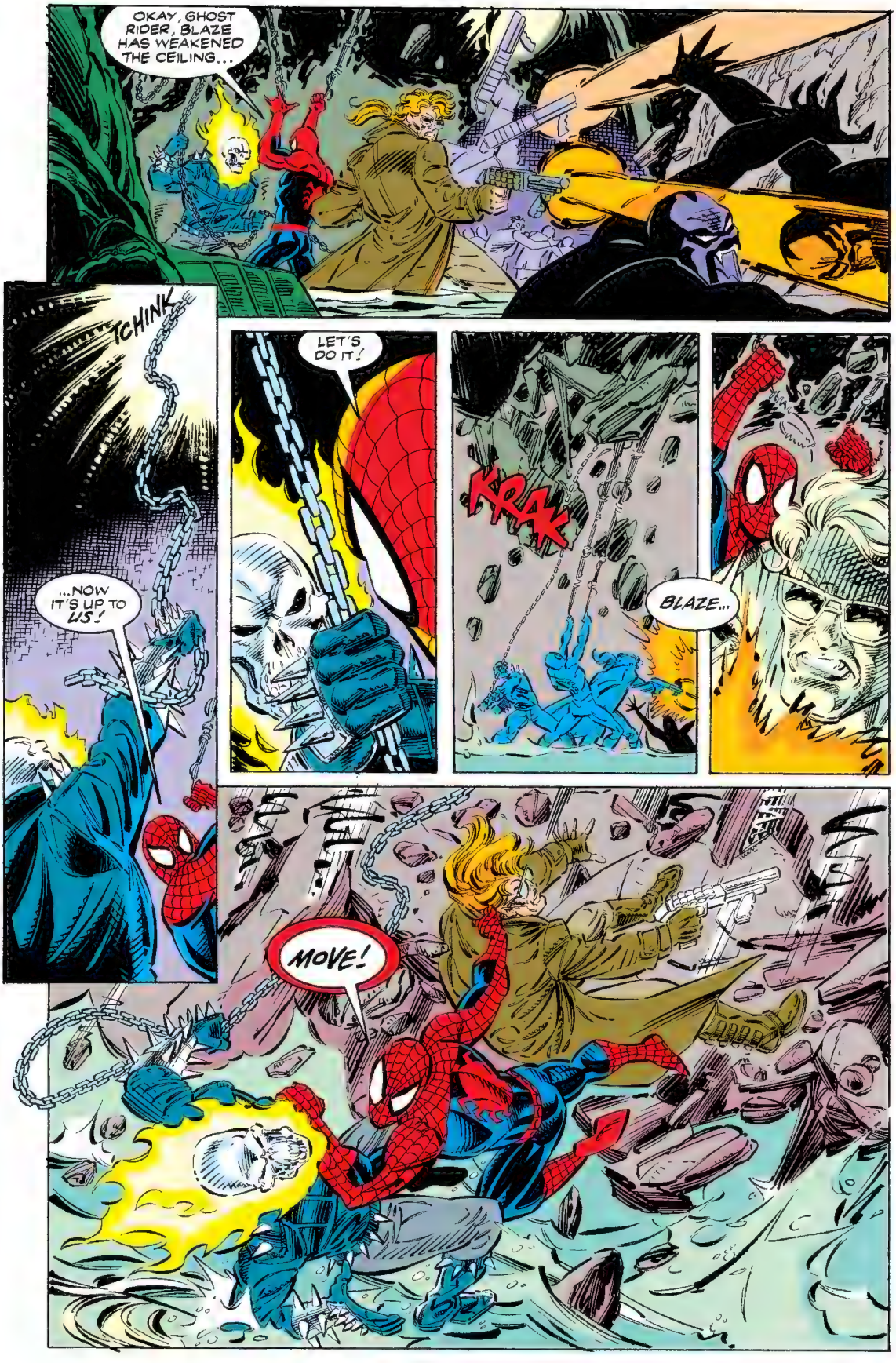
IF THERE IS A FRAGMENT OF A SOUL IN THIS CREATURE THEN...
THE PENANCE STARE WILL SEAR IT!
IT WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF ITS VICTIMS.
IT WILL DO AS WE COMMAND.
I GUESS NOT, EH?

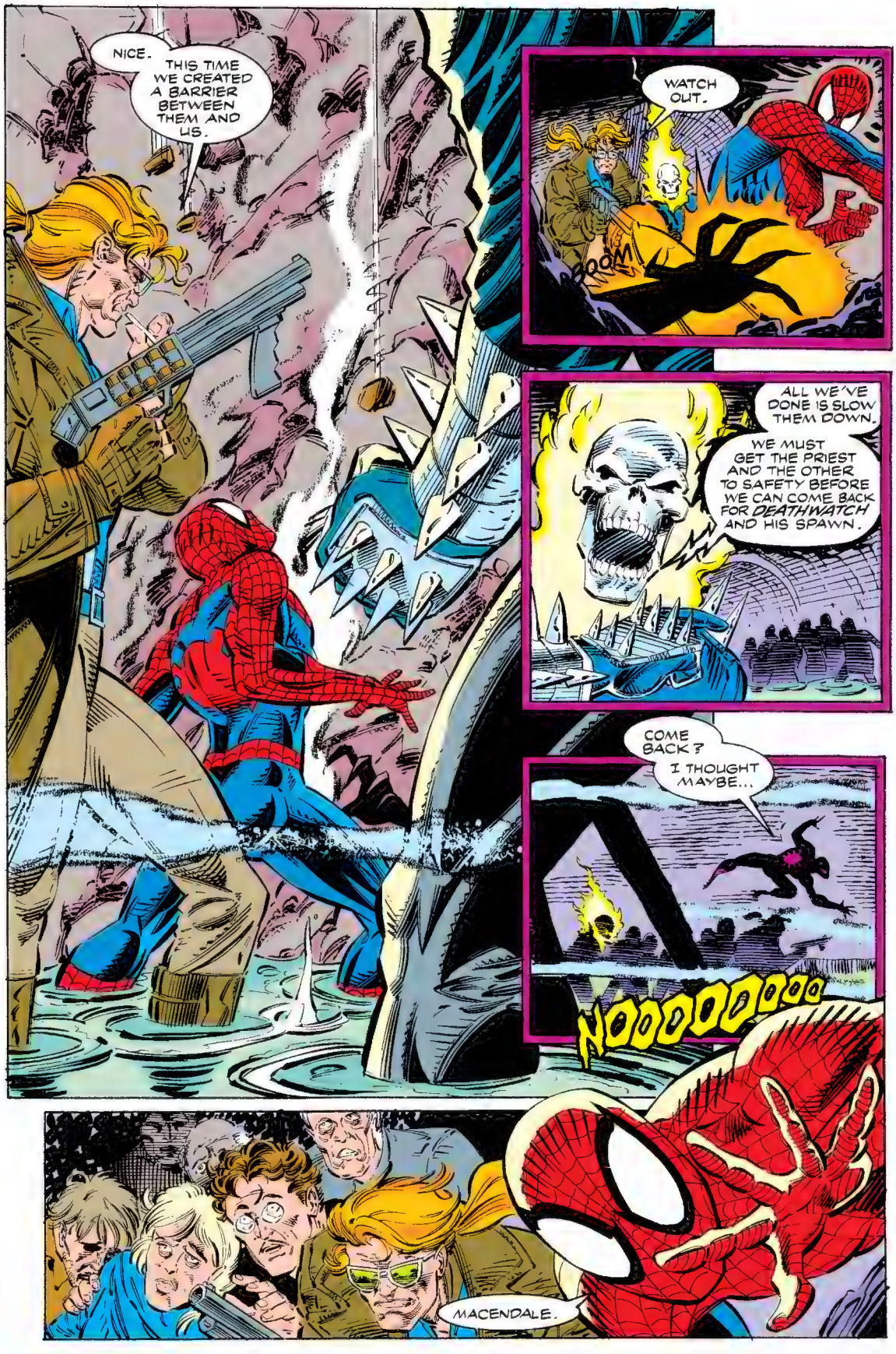

ELSEWHERE IN THE MAZE OF TUNNELS...
FATHER, WE'VE LOST THE DEATH-SPAWN FOR NOW, BUT...
...I'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE AND TO SAFETY.
NO. THE OTHERS! INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THOSE CREATURES--INTENDED TO BE USED AS FOOD...
YOU... WE HAVE GOT TO HELP THEM.
YOU ARE THEIR BEST CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL, AND I WILL NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO INTERFERE.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, FATHER! WE'LL GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE. JUST CALM...
...DOWN.
FATHER! WAIT HERE!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON UP AHEAD.
BOOM! BOOM!
I THINK WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE FIGHT.
THWIP

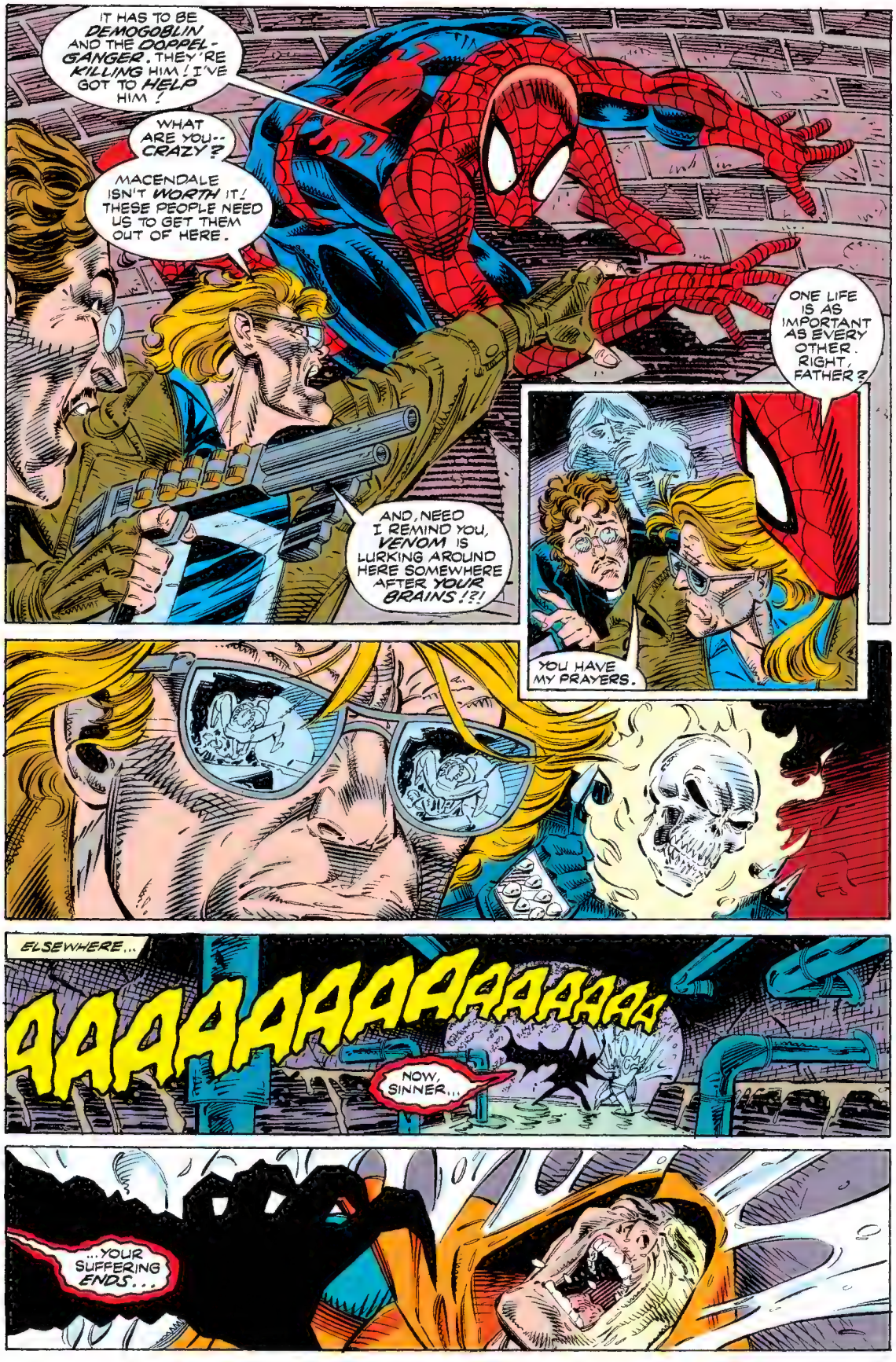
BLAZE! GHOST RIDER! WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?
START KICKING SOME DEMON BUTT!
THEY SEEM TO HAVE TO TAKE SOLID FORM BEFORE THEY CAN DO ANY REAL DAMAGE
KNOWING THAT GIVES US A BIT OF AN EDGE!
YEAH, I WAS GETTING TIRED OF SHADOW BOXING THESE THINGS!
HOW DID YOU FIND EVERYONE?
TURNS OUT MY FLAMING SKULLED FRIEND HAS GOOD EARS.
HE PICKED UP ON THEIR SCREAMING.
THE DEATHSPAWN SEEM TO BE IN SOME SORT OF A FEEDING FRENZY!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE THEY SNATCHED OFF THE STREETS.
FATHER...?

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEFT THIS TO US!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!
THWIP
WOULD YOU HAVE STAYED AWAY IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT YOU COULD HAVE DONE?
IF EVEN ONE LIFE COULD BE SAVED BY MY BEING HERE, THEN, EVEN AT THE RISK OF MY OWN, I HAD TO TRY!
POINT TAKEN, FATHER.
THE PEOPLE ARE SAFE FOR NOW, BUT WE MUST GET THEM OUT OF HERE!
IF YOU HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS, I'M ALL EARS!

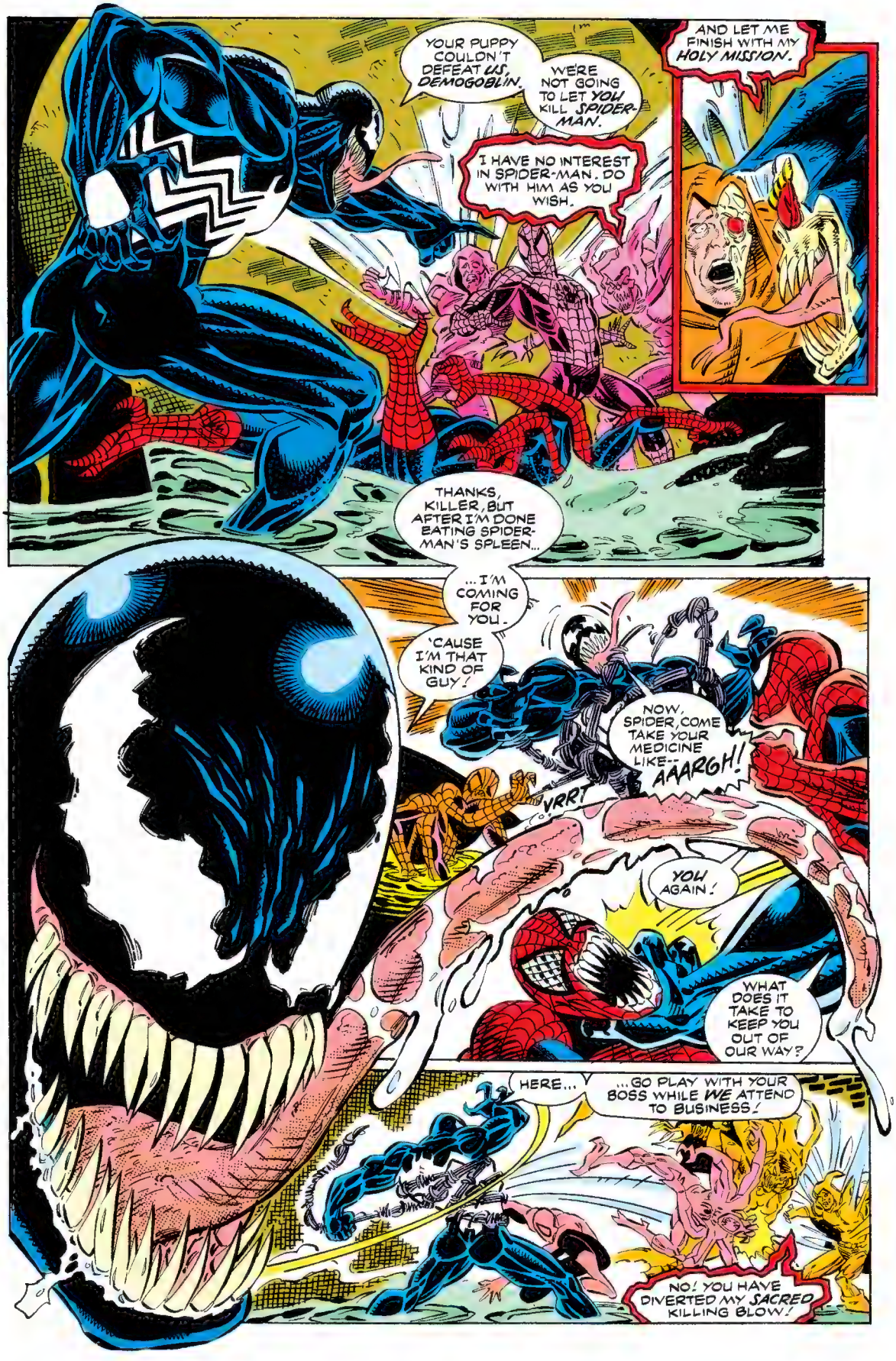

HMMM... MAYBE...
...IF GHOST RIDER CAN JUST KEEP THEM BACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
THWIP
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
WE DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO STOP THEM...
...BUT WE CAN SLOW THEM DOWN!
I GOT YOU! LET'S SEE IF I CAN LEND A HAND.
FATHER--GET EVERYONE BACK AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

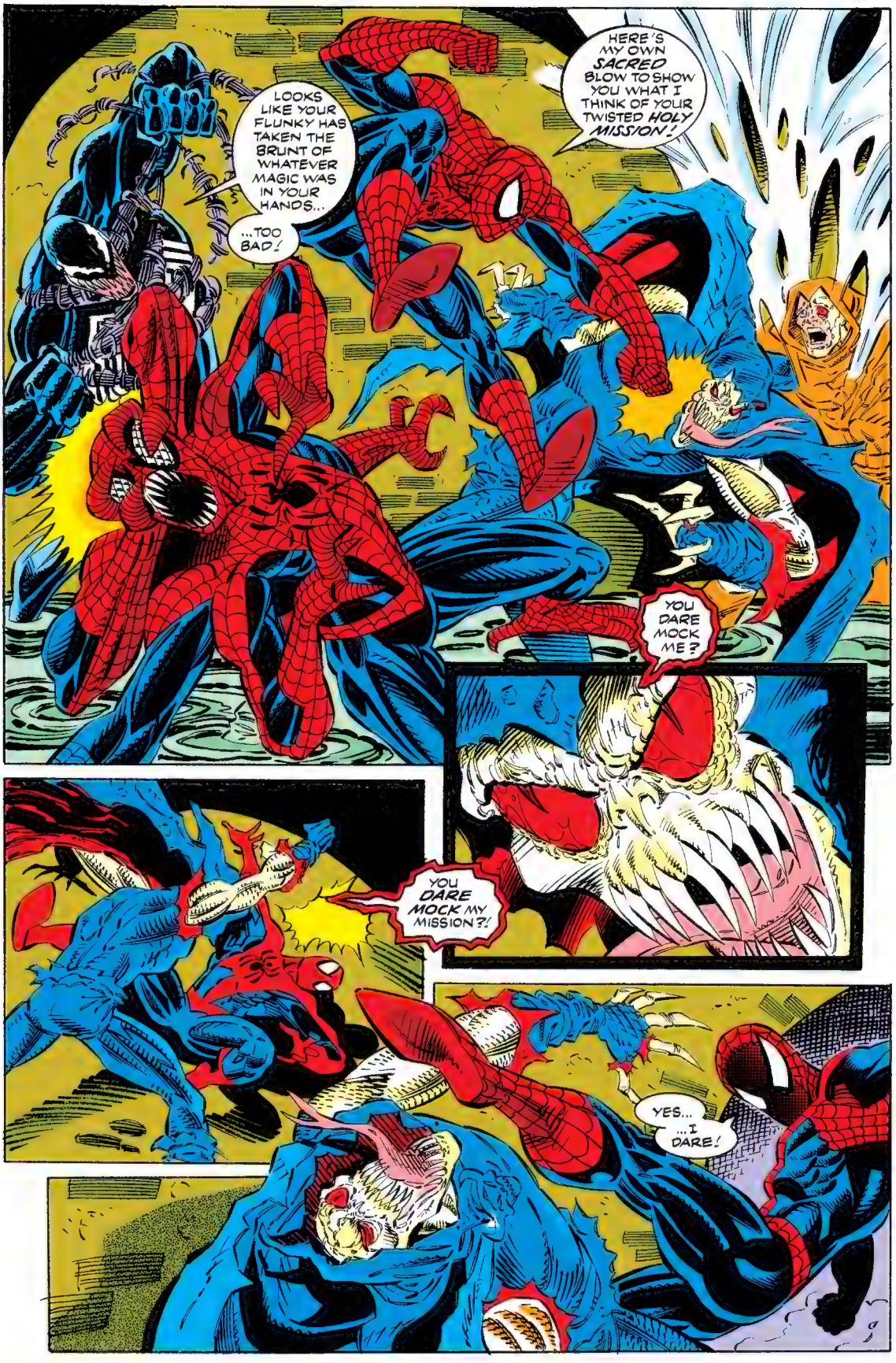

OKAY, GHOST RIDER, BLAZE HAS WEAKENED THE CEILING...
TCHINK
...NOW IT'S UP TO US!
LET'S DO IT!
KRAK
BLAZE...
MOVE!

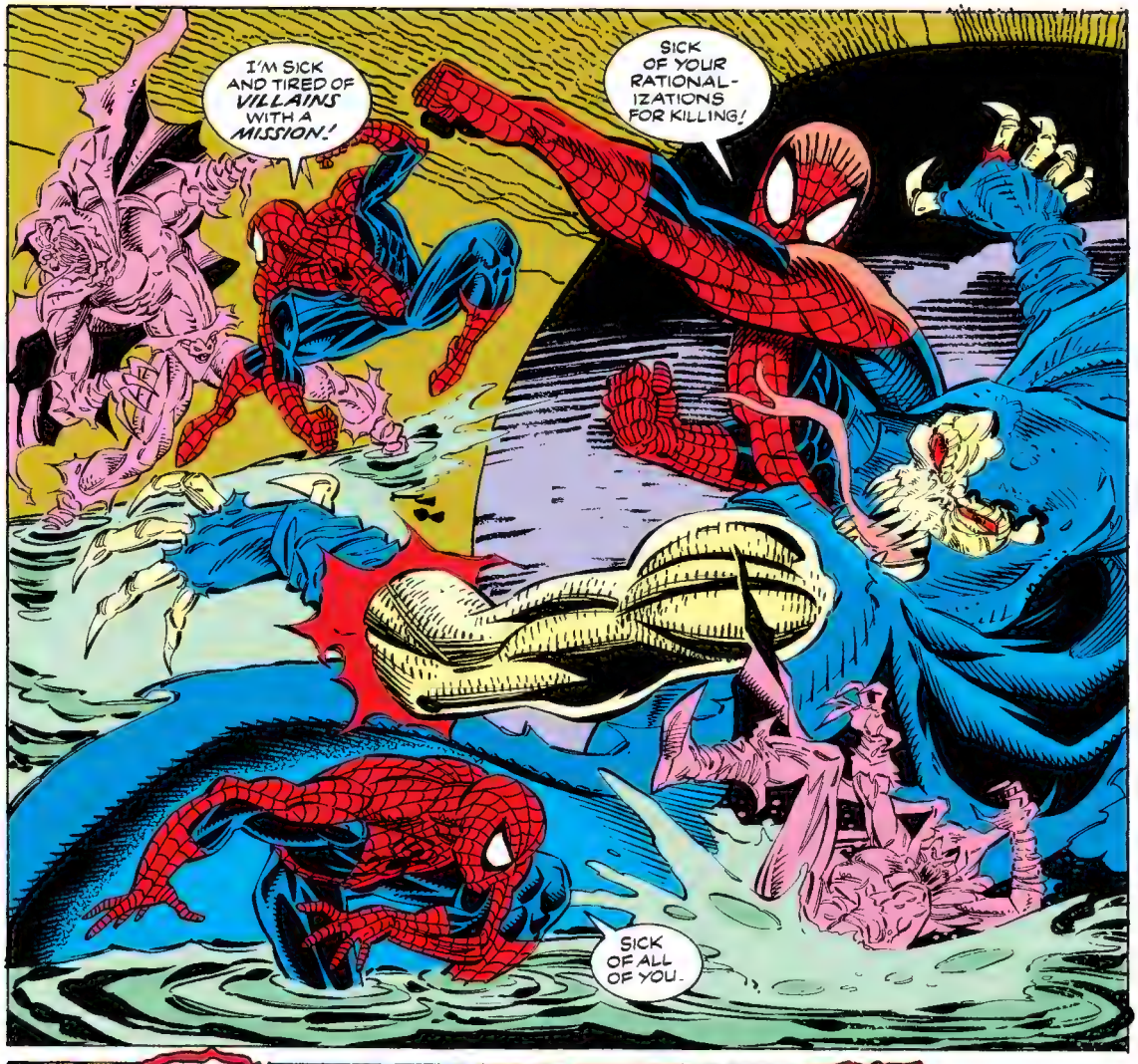

NICE.
THIS TIME WE CREATED A BARRIER BETWEEN THEM AND US.
WATCH OUT.
BOOM
ALL WE'VE DONE IS SLOW THEM DOWN.
WE MUST GET THE PRIEST AND THE OTHER TO SAFETY BEFORE WE CAN COME BACK FOR DEATHWATCH AND HIS SPAWN.
COME BACK?
I THOUGHT MAYBE...
NOOOOOOOO
MACENDALE.

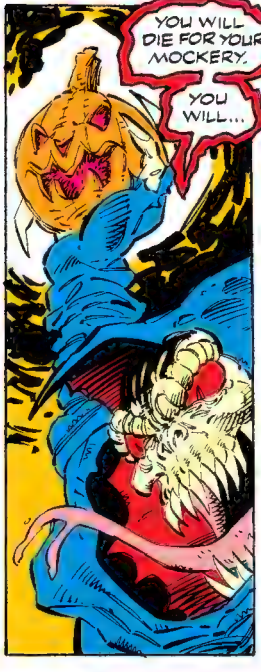

IT HAS TO BE DEMOGOBLIN AND THE DOPPEL-GANGER. THEY'RE KILLING HIM! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU-- CRAZY?
MACENDALE ISN'T WORTH IT! THESE PEOPLE NEED US TO GET THEM OUT OF HERE.
AND, NEED I REMIND YOU, VENOM IS LURKING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE AFTER YOUR BRAINS!?!
ONE LIFE IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVERY OTHER. RIGHT, FATHER?
YOU HAVE MY PRAYERS.
ELSEWHERE...
AAAAAAAAAAAAAA
NOW, SINNER...
...YOUR SUFFERING ENDS...

...ALONG WITH YOUR LIFE!
AND MY REDEMPTION BEGINS!
THWIP
MAYBE YOUR REDEMPTION CAN BEGIN ANOTHER DAY?
BWAM
YOU AGAIN?
MINDLESS ONE, COME ASSIST ME!
WHOA--!

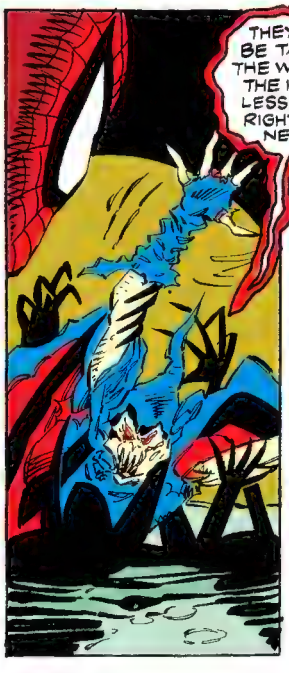

YOUR PUPPY COULDN'T DEFEAT US, DEMOGOBLIN.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU KILL SPIDER-MAN.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SPIDER-MAN. DO WITH HIM AS YOU WISH.
AND LET ME FINISH WITH MY HOLY MISSION.
THANKS, KILLER, BUT AFTER I'M DONE EATING SPIDER-MAN'S SPLEEN...
...I'M COMING FOR YOU.
'CAUSE I'M THAT KIND OF GUY!
NOW, SPIDER, COME TAKE YOUR MEDICINE LIKE--
AAARGH!
VRRT
YOU AGAIN!
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO KEEP YOU OUT OF OUR WAY?
HERE...
...GO PLAY WITH YOUR BOSS WHILE WE ATTEND TO BUSINESS!
NO! YOU HAVE DIVERTED MY SACRED KILLING BLOW!


LOOKS LIKE YOUR FLUNKY HAS TAKEN THE BRUNT OF WHATEVER MAGIC WAS IN YOUR HANDS...
...TOO BAD!
HERE'S MY OWN SACRED BLOW TO SHOW YOU WHAT I THINK OF YOUR TWISTED HOLY MISSION!
YOU DARE MOCK ME?
YOU DARE MOCK MY MISSION?!
YES... ...I DARE!


I'M SICK AND TIRED OF VILLAINS WITH A MISSION!
SICK OF YOUR RATIONAL-IZATIONS FOR KILLING!
SICK OF ALL OF YOU.

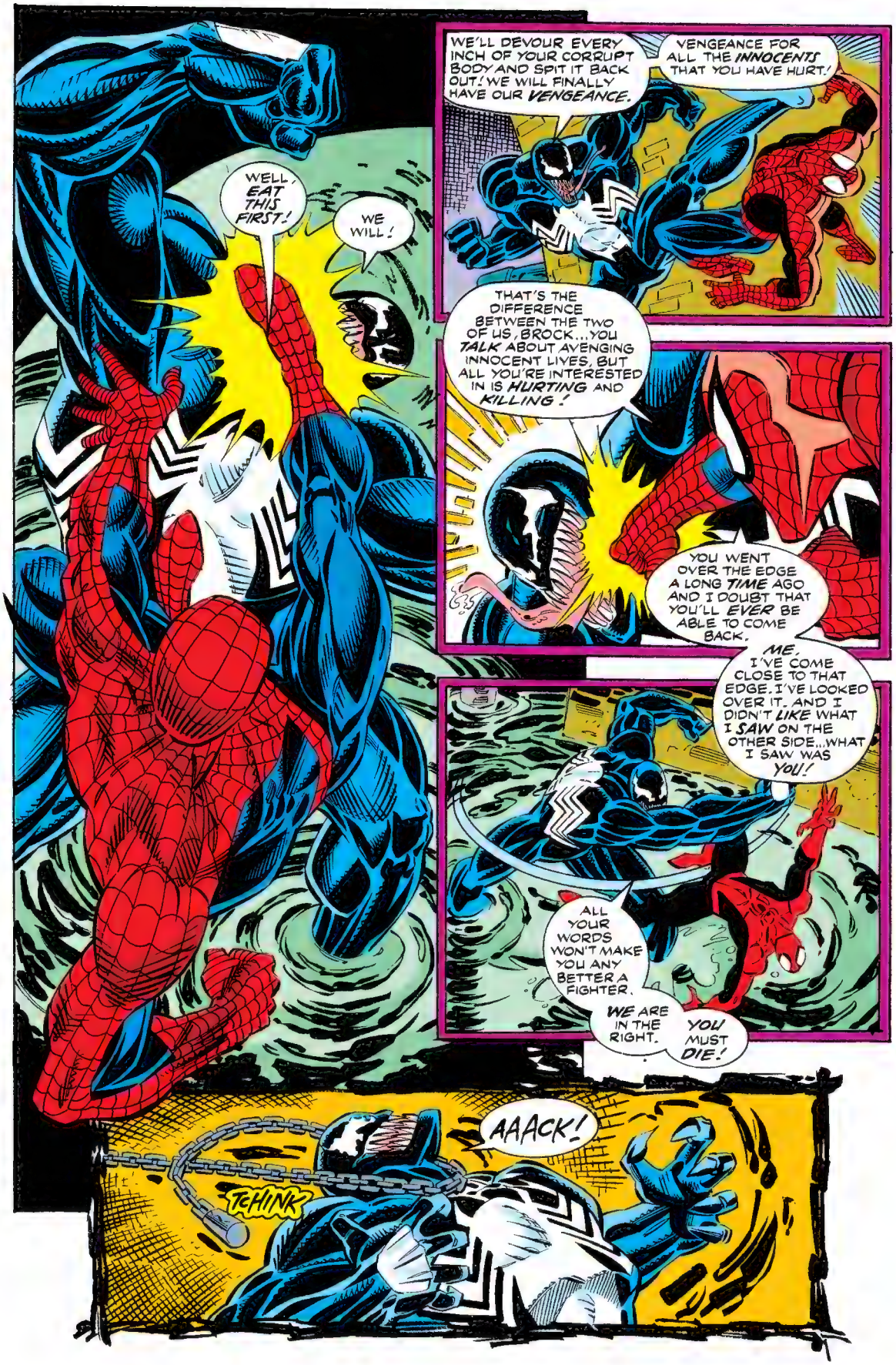

YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR MOCKERY.
YOU WILL...

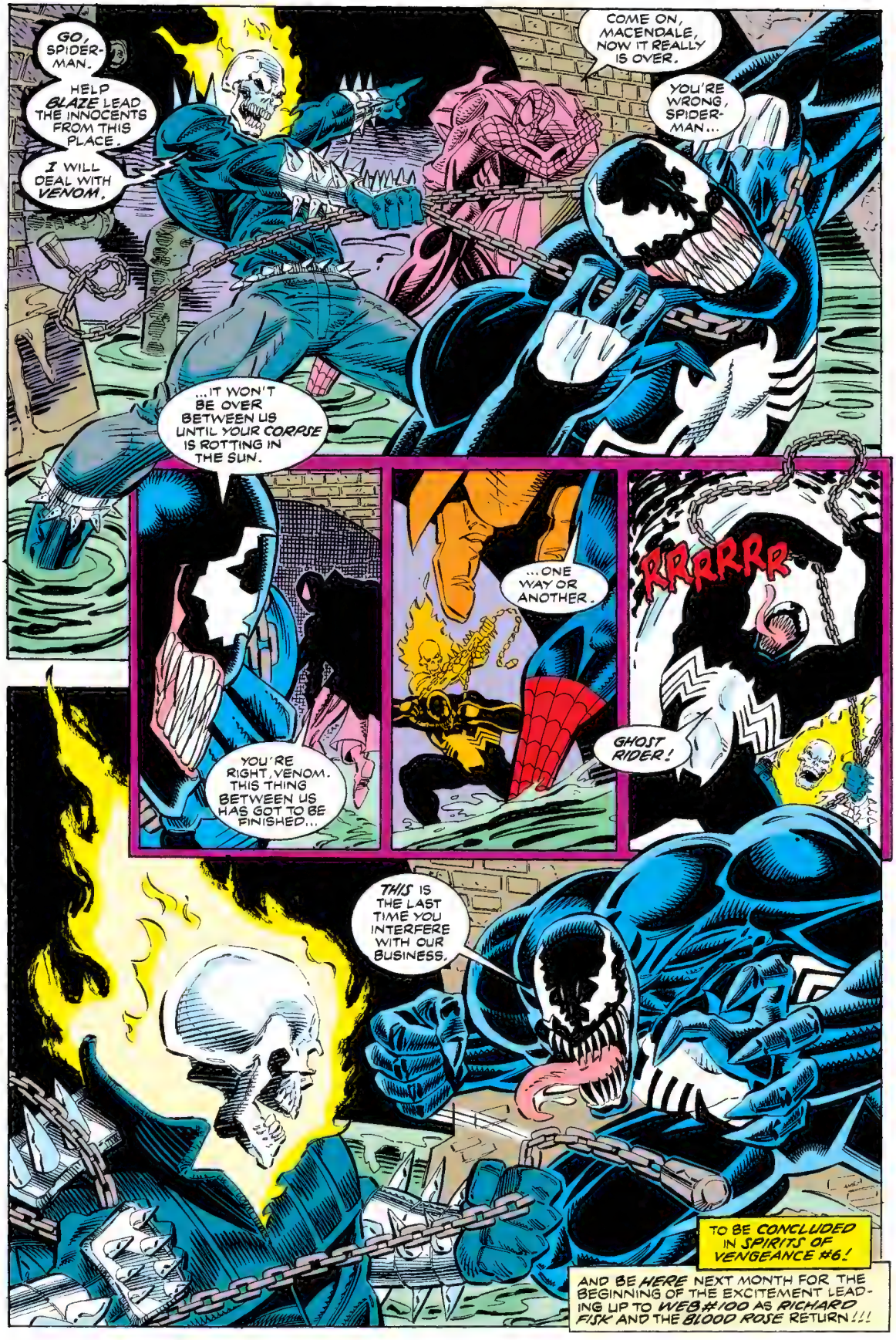
WHAT? THE DEMONS SEEK TO PULL ME DOWN.


THEY WILL BE TAUGHT THE WAY OF THE HARSH LESSON OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS.

THEY WILL...

I'M READY TO GO TO JAIL NOW.
GOOD, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
THIS NIGHTMARE IS OVER.
NOT JUST YET.
OH, BOY.
YOU DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT US, DID YOU?
WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH YOU!
YEAH, YEAH! I KNOW...
...YOU WANT TO EAT MY BRAINS!


WE'LL DEVOUR EVERY INCH OF YOUR CORRUPT BODY AND SPIT IT BACK OUT! WE WILL FINALLY HAVE OUR VENGEANCE.
VENGEANCE FOR ALL THE INNOCENTS THAT YOU HAVE HURT!
WELL, EAT THIS FIRST!
WE WILL!
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BROCK... YOU TALK ABOUT AVENGING INNOCENT LIVES, BUT ALL YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IS HURTING AND KILLING!
YOU WENT OVER THE EDGE A LONG TIME AGO AND I DOUBT THAT YOU'LL EVER BE ABLE TO COME BACK.
ME, I'VE COME CLOSE TO THAT EDGE. I'VE LOOKED OVER IT. AND I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT I SAW ON THE OTHER SIDE... WHAT I SAW WAS YOU!
ALL YOUR WORDS WON'T MAKE YOU ANY BETTER A FIGHTER.
WE ARE IN THE RIGHT.
YOU MUST DIE!
TCHINK
AAACK!


GO, SPIDER-MAN.
HELP BLAZE LEAD THE INNOCENTS FROM THIS PLACE.
I WILL DEAL WITH VENOM.
COME ON, MACENDALE, NOW IT REALLY IS OVER.
YOU'RE WRONG, SPIDER-MAN...
...IT WON'T BE OVER BETWEEN US UNTIL YOUR CORPSE IS ROTTING IN THE SUN.
YOU'RE RIGHT, VENOM. THIS THING BETWEEN US HAS GOT TO BE FINISHED...
...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
RRRRRR
GHOST RIDER!
THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR BUSINESS.
TO BE CONCLUDED IN SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6!
AND BE HERE NEXT MONTH FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE EXCITEMENT LEADING UP TO WEB #100 AS RICHARD FISK AND THE BLOOD ROSE RETURN!!!

MARVEL COMICS
GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE
VENOM
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STEALTH

GHOST RIDER: A RELENTLESS AND UNFORGIVING DEMONIC FORCE OF RETRIBUTION. JOHN BLAZE: A MAN WHO ESCAPED HIS OWN DEMONIC CURSE, ONLY TO BE TEAMED WITH THE ENTITY HE ONCE VOWED TO DESTROY. TOGETHER THEY TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, FIGHTING THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT. THEY ARE. . ..
GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE
GHOST RIDER!
YOU LET SPIDER-MAN ESCAPE MY GRASP!
FOR THAT YOU WILL DIE!

NO, VENOM, I WAS ONLY ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE SPILLING OF ANY MORE INNOCENT BLOOD.

HA! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF VENGEANCE!

SPIDER-MAN CRUSHES THE INNOCENCE IN ALL THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH HIM!

SPIDER-MAN WAS PROTECTING THE INNOCENT HOSTAGES THAT WERE TO BE USED AS FOOD BY THE CREATION OF DEATHWATCH.*

IF ANY WILL FEEL VENGEANCE'S CRUSHING BLOW...

...LET IT BE THE DEATHSPAWN!

*SEE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #96.

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF HIM AND...

...YOU KNOW NOTHING OF US!

HOWARD MACKIE & ADAM KUBERT STORY / ART

BILL REINHOLD INKS

MIKE HEISLER LETTERS

GREG WRIGHT COLORS

BOBBIE CHASE EDITS

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SPIRITS OF VENOM part 4 of 4

LAST RITES

YOU KNOW NOTHING OF OUR STRENGTH!
OUR HATRED OF SPIDER-MAN DRIVES US...
...STRENGTHENS US.
WE MUST DESTROY THE SPIDER AS HE TRIED TO DESTROY US.
AND IF YOU STAND IN OUR WAY...
...THEN YOU WILL BE DESTROYED TOO!
WITH YOUR OWN CHAIN WE WILL TEAR THE DEMONIC HEAD FROM YOUR BODY!
YOU SAY I KNOW NOTHING OF YOUR STRENGTH.
I SAY...

...YOU KNOW NOTHING OF MINE!
FEEL THE BURNING EMBRACE OF MY PENANCE STARE.
FEEL THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS!
FEEL IT TEAR AT YOUR--
ARRGHHHH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO US?
YOUR FLAMES...NOT FIRE...DON'T BURN ...BUT...BUT...THE PAIN!
SOMETHING IS WRONG.
THIS COSTUME OF HIS...IT IS ALIVE... ALIEN... REACTING TO THE PENANCE STARE IN AN UNKNOWN WAY... IT--
FWOOM
KOOSH

NASTY! NASTY! MR. FIRE THAT DOESN'T BURN!
BUT THAT HURT!
WE DON'T LIKE TO BE HURT.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT HURT YOU MORE THAN IT DID US!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN HURT YOU A LITTLE MORE.
HAHAHA!
I WOULDN'T LAUGH TOO LOUD...
CLIK
...I'M NOT IN A REAL GOOD MOOD TONIGHT.
I'VE GOT A HEADACHE...
...ONE PULL OF THE TRIGGER AND YOU CAN JOIN ME.
BUT WE LIKE LAUGHING.
ONLY ONE THING MAKES US HAPPIER THAN LAUGHING! KILLING!
OOPS! LOOK WHAT WE'VE GONE AND DONE!
WE'RE ALL TANGLED IN YOUR TRIGGER FINGER.
GUESS I WON'T BE GETTING THAT HEADACHE AFTER ALL, Heh?

HAHA HAHA
SHUT UP!
SHING
I SAID I HAVE A HEADACHE.
THIP
THAT'S TWICE YOU'VE HURT US, BLAZE! FIRST WITH THAT GUN OF YOURS* AND NOW YOUR KNIFE.
* SEE LAST ISSUE.
IT WILL BE THE LAST.
OH, GHOST RIDER! DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO LEND A HAND HERE?

BANG.
YOU'VE GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR, BLAZE.
I'M GOING TO ENJOY CRACKING YOUR BONES WITH MY--
WHAT?
THE DEATHSPAWN! PULLING US THROUGH THE--

THE QUENTIN CARNIVAL. DOVER, NEW JERSEY...
CLARA? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IT'S ME, MIRANDA...
...TIMMY'S MOM. HE'S BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU EVER SINCE YOU PASSED OUT IN THE STORM.*
WE ALL HAVE BEEN, MS. MENNINGER.
YEAH, RIGHT. YOUR PULSE WAS RACING WILDLY FOR A SHORT TIME AFTER WE FOUND YOU, BUT IT'S SETTLED DOWN NOW.
WHAT THE...
WOLF, PLEASE!
CLARA, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?
YES, ELI.
*LAST ISSUE.
A VISION... FIRE... DARKNESS... ALL AROUND... JOHN MUST KNOW A VISION OF...
...OF ...OF ...OF...
NOOOO!
ELI! SHE'S GOING INTO CONVULSIONS!
CALL A DOCTOR!

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
SPIDER-MAN?
LOTS OF SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS, INCLUDING VENOM.
HERE'S ONE OF THEM, HOBGOBLIN.
PUT HIM IN A CELL AND THROW AWAY THE KEY.
BUT NOW THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE SAFE...
Ah, THE CAVALRY ARRIVES IN THE NICK OF TIME!
LOOK, IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF YOU GUARDSMEN AROUND, YOU BETTER GET SOME EXTRA BATTERIES FOR YOUR SUITS...
...THERE IS A SMALL WAR TAKING PLACE UNDERGROUND.
...I'M HEADING BACK DOWN TO SEE IF I CAN HELP OUT GHOST RIDER AND BLAZE...
...I OWE THEM.
ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS!
WE HAVE A POSITIVE CONFIRMATION ON VENOM'S LOCATION!
WE'RE GOING UNDERGROUND... NOW!

DEEP UNDER-GROUND...

WAKE UP, BLAZE...

...YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT!

OOH, IF I COULD ONLY HAVE YOU FOR MYSELF.

I'VE NEVER SENSED SUCH VITALITY IN A HUMAN.

...THESE THREE ARE FOR DEATHWATCH.

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, WE'D BEST BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

PUT YOUR TONGUE BACK IN YOUR MOUTH, HAG...

VENOM THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAKING TOO KINDLY TO OUR MYSTICAL BIND-INGS. A BIT TOO HOT, I'D SAY!

SOON DEATHWATCH STRONGEST OF THE TRANSLORDS, WILL WALK AMONG US!

EACH OF US GAVE HIM A BIT OF OUR LIFE'S ESSENCE SO THAT HE COULD CROSS OVER FROM HIS OWN DIMENSION.

GIVING UP PART OF OUR HUMANITY... WE BECAME THE DEATHSPAWN.

BUT THE PROMISE OF GREATER POWER WAS FULFILLED.

AS DEATHWATCH FED OFF THE LIFE FORCES OF HUMANS, HE GAVE BACK THAT WHICH HE TOOK...

...AND MORE!

HAG, MYSELF, SNOWBLIND AND OTHERS WERE GIVEN POWERS BEYOND THOSE OF HUMANS.

WE WERE HIS ELITE.

AND WE SHALL BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE!

I SAID STAY BACK, HAG!

DEATHWATCH MUST DRAIN THE LIFE FORCE OF THESE THREE HIMSELF.

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S UP FOR DRAINING MUCH OF ANY-THING.

NOT YET. FIRST HE MUST BE FORTIFIED BY THE...

...DEATHSPAWN!
THOSE WHOM HE CREATED WILL MERGE WITH HIM ONCE MORE.
THEIR VERY ESSENCE WILL ANIMATE HIM...
...SO THAT DEATHWATCH MAY FEED ONCE AGAIN!

FEED, MASTER, SO THAT YOU MAY RETURN TO US ONCE AGAIN!
YOU DON'T WANT TO FEED SO SOON AFTER BEING DEAD...
...IT'LL GIVE YOU...
...CRAMPS!
THWIP
NICE.
HOW ABOUT EVERYONE JUST STAYS RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE?
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYONE...EVEN A BUNCH OF DEMON KILLERS, BUT...
...IF I WAS GOING TO...
...BLAZE'S GUN WOULD BE THE WAY TO DO IT!
TAKE HIM!
DEATHWATCH WILL DRAIN HIS LIFE FORCE AS WELL!
I SAID...
...DON'T MAKE ME USE THIS THING!

YOU ASKED FOR...
BLAZE! I WAS NEVER GOOD WITH GUNS!
WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
SURE, BUT IF IT'S NOT WORKING FOR YOU, I DOUBT...
KCHiNKT
KCHiNKT
KCHiNKT
B-KOOM
GEEZ! HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?
I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT LATER, BUT NOW...
GHOST RIDER! WE'VE GOT TO HELP SPIDER-MAN.
YOU HELP HIM...

...I MUST CONTAIN THE DEATHSPAWN WHILE THEY ARE STILL WITHIN DEATHWATCH!
SURE.
HELP SPIDER-MAN. NO PROBLEM. EXCEPT...
...I CAN'T GET OFF A CLEAR SHOT WITHOUT HITTING HIM AND I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO UP AGAINST THE DEATHSPAWN WITHOUT THE GUN.
BUT HE DOES!
SHOULD I?
HE'D DO ANYTHING...GO THROUGH ANYONE... TO GET TO SPIDER-MAN.
HE'D ALSO BE A LOOSE CANNON AFTERWARDS, BUT THE THREE OF US COULD TAKE HIM...
...I HOPE!
VENOM, FETCH!

SPIDER-MAN IS OURS, KILLERS!
YOU ARE ALL OURS!
YOU WILL ALL *DIE* FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO THE INNOCENT!
ER... THANKS... FOR NOW!

THE DEATHSPAWN ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES!
YEAH, THEY MUST BE WEAK FROM MERGING WITH DEATH-WATCH, BUT...
...THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM FOR US TO HANDLE IF THEY ALL COME BACK OUT!
THEY WILL NOT RE-EMERGE!
YEAAARGH!
WHILE THEY ARE CONTAINED BY MY CHAIN, FIRE AT DEATHWATCH!
WHATEVER YOU SAY! JUST STAND BACK...
BKOOM
...YOU KNOW HOW THIS STUFF DISAGREES WITH YOU!

NICE.
THE CHAIN IS ACTING AS A CONTINUOUS CIRCUIT FOR THE HELLFIRE.
IT'S KEEPING THE DEATHSPAWN TUCKED AWAY INSIDE DEATHWATCH.
THE GHOULS ARE GONE, SO THAT LEAVES...
...HAG AND TROLL!
I'M WILLING TO BET THAT IF EITHER OF YOU SO MUCH AS BLINKS, I COULD TAKE BOTH OF YOUR HEADS OFF WITH ONE SHOT.
WANT TO TRY?
PLEASE?

THEY'RE FINISHED.
IN SOLID FORM THEY WEREN'T SO TOUGH.
...WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO FINISH! I WANT TO EAT YOUR...
NOT YET, SPIDER...
JUST UGLY!
BLAZE, GHOST RIDER, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS SEWER BEFORE I...
B-KOOM
I'VE HAD IT WITH ALL THIS BRAIN EATING TALK!
THERE IS NO WAY THAT GHOST RIDER AND I ARE GOING TO LET YOU GET TO SPIDER-MAN!

WE CAN TAKE YOU OUT. KILL THAT ALIEN COSTUME OF YOURS...FOR GOOD! HOW WOULD THAT FEEL?
NO...WE CANNOT BE SEPARATED...WE WOULD DIE...WE NEED EACH OTHER...BUT SPIDER-MAN MUST DIE!
MAYBE ANOTHER DAY. SOO--
--OOOOON!
SONIC DISRUPTOR HAS HIM DOWN...
...GET HIM IN THE CONTAINMENT CYLINDER NOW!
LOOKS LIKE THE CAVALRY ARRIVED.
LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

LATER, ON STREET LEVEL...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, GUYS!

THE GUARDSMEN HAVE ROUNDED UP THE STRAY *DEATHSPAWN* AND THEY STUMBLED ONTO *DEMOGOBLIN*.

HOBGOBLIN'S GOING BACK TO PRISON AND *VENOM* IS HEADING BACK TO THE *VAULT*.

I MAY BE ABLE TO GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP.

YEAH? GOOD FOR YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH DEATHWATCH, HAG AND TROLL? WOULDN'T IT BE SMARTER TO LET THE GUARDSMEN TAKE THEM?

NO. THERE ARE FORCES AT PLAY HERE THAT SCIENCE ALONE CANNOT RESTRAIN.

WE MUST SEEK OUT *DR. STRANGE*. HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WELL, GOOD LUCK! DOC CAN BE A HARD MAN TO FIND SOMETIMES.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS DR. STRANGE THING...

...DIDN'T *HE* SET US UP WITH *LILITH* AND HER CREW?

HE HAD HIS REASONS.

YEAH, WELL...

...I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE CARNIVAL TONIGHT BEFORE THIS SNOW GETS ANY WORSE.

NEXT ISSUE: MORE THAN THE SNOW GETS WORSE.

WRITER: HOWARD MACKIE • ARTIST: SAM KIETH • COLORIST: MIKE THOMAS • LETTERER: JANICE CHIANG
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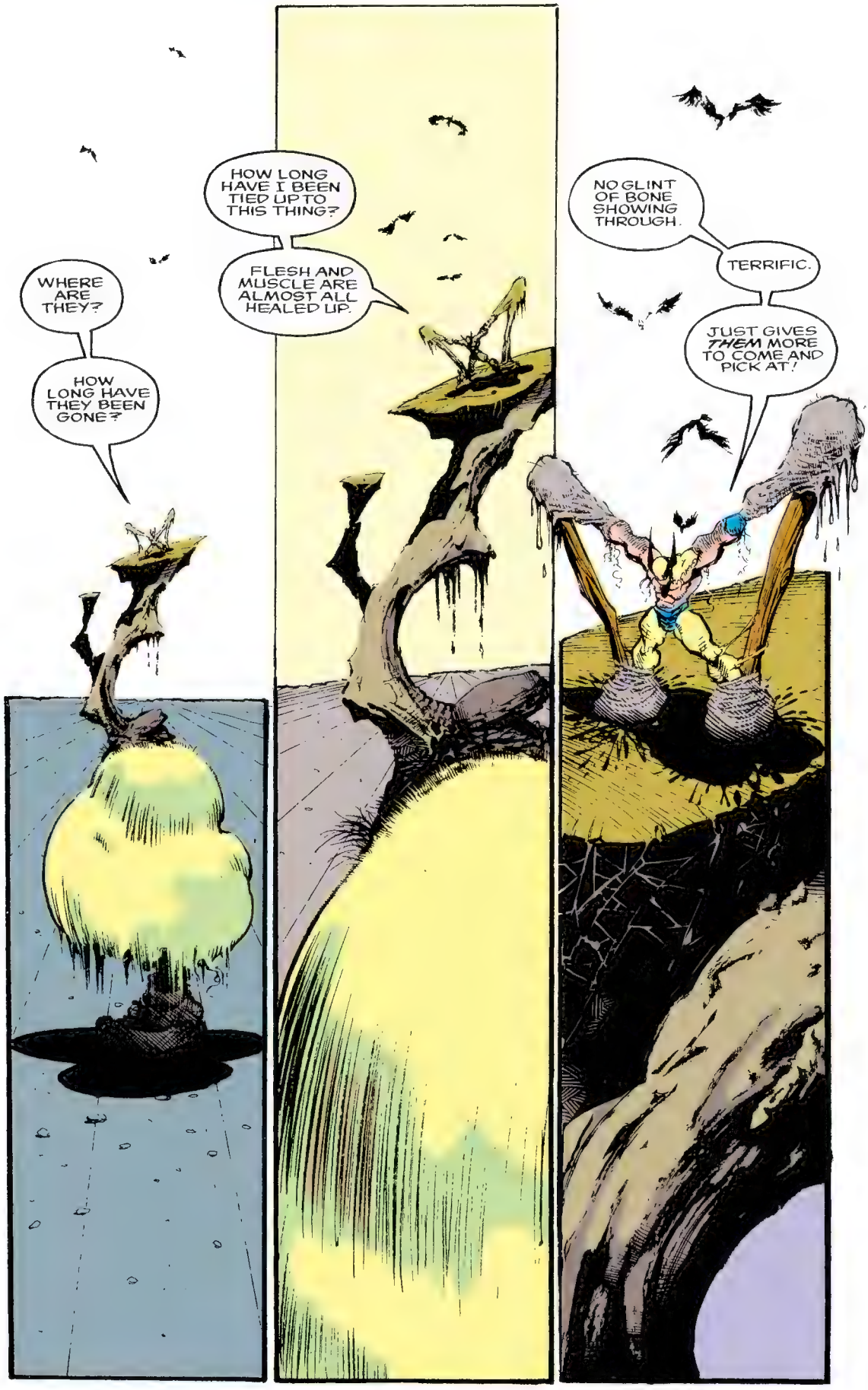
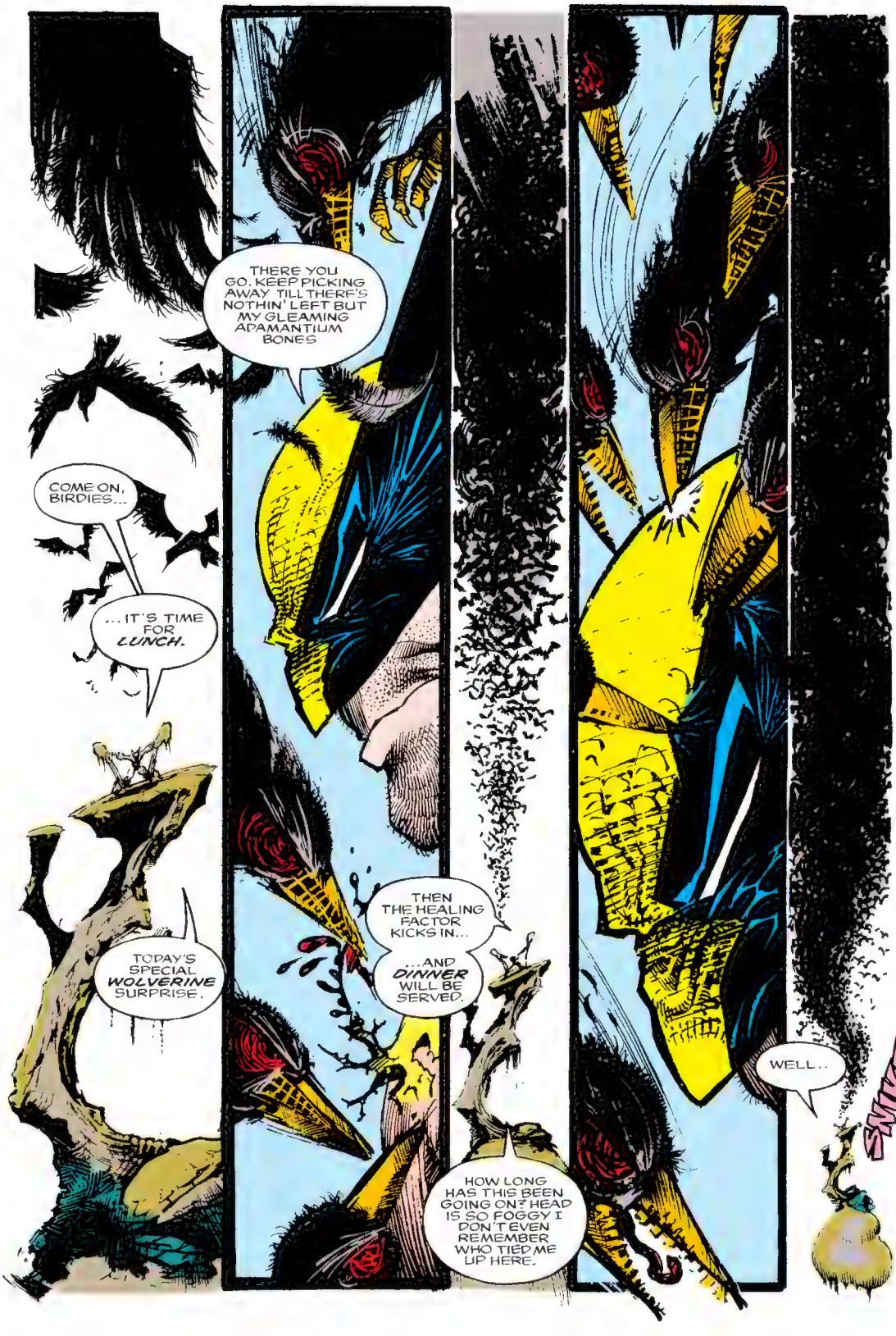
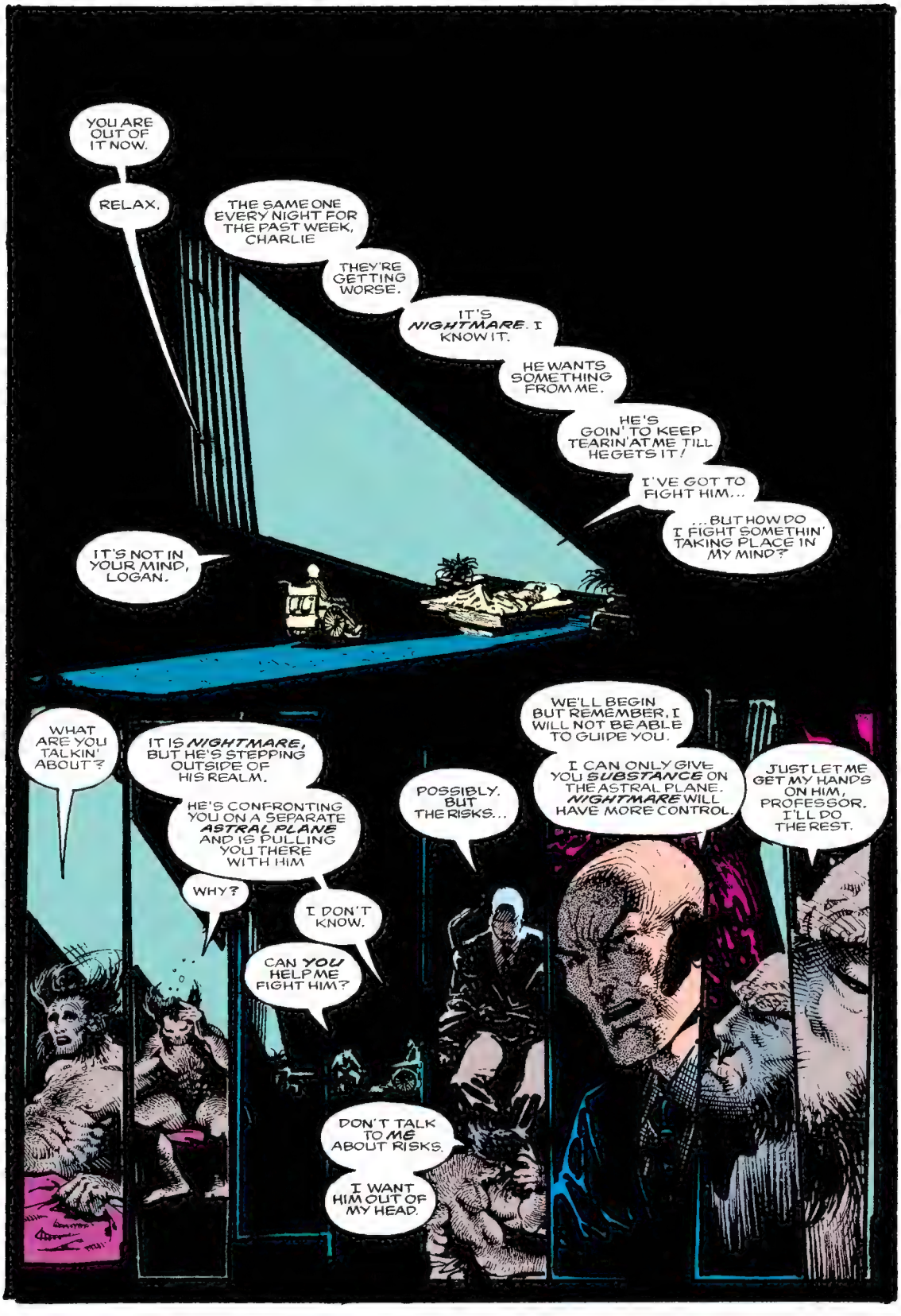

WHERE ARE THEY?
HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN GONE?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN TIED UP TO THIS THING?
FLESH AND MUSCLE ARE ALMOST ALL HEALED UP.
NO GLINT OF BONE SHOWING THROUGH.
TERRIFIC.
JUST GIVES THEM MORE TO COME AND PICK AT!

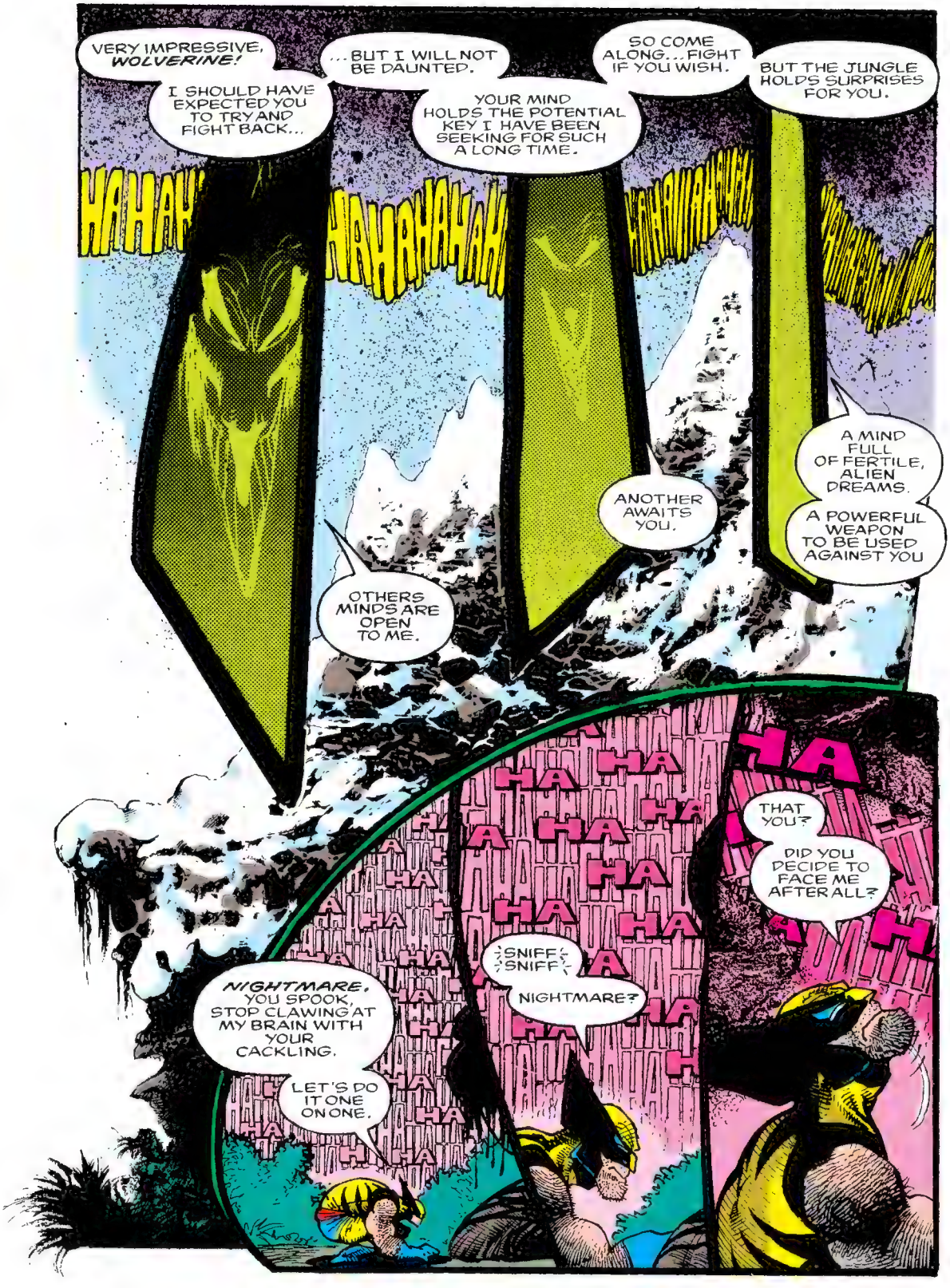
A LITTLE DREAD...
OF ME!
THIS MUTANT HEALING FACTOR CAN BE A REAL PAIN SOMETIMES.
HERE THEY COME AGAIN. CAN HEAR THEIR GREASY LITTLE WINGS FLAPPIN'...
...BEAKS READY TO PICK ME CLEAN DOWN TO THE BONE!
FEATURING
WOLVERINE!


COME ON, BIRDIES...
...IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH.
TODAY'S SPECIAL WOLVERINE SURPRISE.
THERE YOU GO. KEEP PICKING AWAY TILL THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT BUT MY GLEAMING ADAMANTIUM BONES
THEN THE HEALING FACTOR KICKS IN...
...AND DINNER WILL BE SERVED.
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON? HEAD IS SO FOGGY I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO TIED ME UP HERE.
WELL..
SNIKT

...IT'S GOING TO STOP NOW!
YOU CROWS AIN'T REAL!
THE PAIN AIN'T REAL!
LIVED THROUGH PLENTY ENOUGH REAL PAIN TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
NONE OF THIS IS REAL!
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD!
A NIGHTMARE!
PROFESSOR!
I'M RIGHT HERE, LOGAN.


YOU ARE OUT OF IT NOW.
RELAX.
THE SAME ONE EVERY NIGHT FOR THE PAST WEEK, CHARLIE
THEY'RE GETTING WORSE.
IT'S *NIGHTMARE*. I KNOW IT.
HE WANTS SOMETHING FROM ME.
HE'S GOIN' TO KEEP TEARIN' AT ME TILL HE GETS IT!
I'VE GOT TO FIGHT HIM...
...BUT HOW DO I FIGHT SOMETHIN' TAKING PLACE IN MY MIND?
IT'S NOT IN YOUR MIND, LOGAN.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
IT IS *NIGHTMARE*, BUT HE'S STEPPING OUTSIDE OF HIS REALM.
HE'S CONFRONTING YOU ON A SEPARATE *ASTRAL PLANE* AND IS PULLING YOU THERE WITH HIM
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW.
CAN *YOU* HELP ME FIGHT HIM?
POSSIBLY. BUT THE RISKS...
WE'LL BEGIN BUT REMEMBER, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GUIDE YOU.
I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU *SUBSTANCE* ON THE ASTRAL PLANE. *NIGHTMARE* WILL HAVE MORE CONTROL.
JUST LET ME GET MY HANDS ON HIM, PROFESSOR. I'LL DO THE REST.
DON'T TALK TO *ME* ABOUT RISKS.
I WANT HIM OUT OF MY HEAD.

NICE GOING, PROFESSOR.
NO BONDS.
NO FLESH-EATING BIRDS.
JUST ME AND A BIG OVERGROWN JUNGLE. JUST LIKE THE GOOD OL' DAYS.
SNIFF SNIFF
NOW TO HUNT ME A NIGHTMARE!


VERY IMPRESSIVE, WOLVERINE!
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO TRY AND FIGHT BACK...
...BUT I WILL NOT BE DAUNTED.
YOUR MIND HOLDS THE POTENTIAL KEY I HAVE BEEN SEEKING FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.
SO COME ALONG...FIGHT IF YOU WISH.
BUT THE JUNGLE HOLDS SURPRISES FOR YOU.
HAHAHAH

OH, NO, WOLVERINE, NOT NIGHTMARE. BUT...
...STAND IN OUR WAY AND VENOM WILL FEAST ON YOUR ENTRAILS!
HA HA HA HEE HEE!
VENOM?
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

WRITER: HOWARD MACKIE • ARTIST: SAM KIETH • COLORIST: MIKE THOMAS • LETTERER: JANICE CHIANG
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DREAMS ARE MADE OF HATE!
GET OUT OF OUR WAY, WOLVERINE!
GET OUT OF OUR HEAD!
CLAWS AND WEBS PART II
FEATURING
WOLVERINE
AND
VENOM
VENOM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO HER, BUT...

...YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
THIS IS ALL NIGHTMARE'S DOING!
KRUMP!
NOOOOOO! HELLP!
WHERE'D HE TAKE OFF TO?
I THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF NIGHTMARE'S FLUNKIES!
YES, BUT YOU ARE THE REASON WE WERE BROUGHT HERE!
WE DON'T LIKE PEOPLE PLAYING IN OUR MINDS, SO YOU MUST DIE--
NIGHTMARE IS ON TO MY SCHEME WITH PROFESSOR X TO GET HIM OUT OF MY MIND ONCE AND FOR ALL.
THE PROFESSOR IS HELPING ME FACE NIGHTMARE ON MY OWN TERMS FOR A CHANGE BY GIVING ME SOME SOLID FORM TO FIGHT NIGHTMARE WITH.

FOR SOME REASON NIGHTMARE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET INSIDE MY HEAD LATELY.
HE'S BEEN INVADING MY DREAMS AND PLAYING WITH MY MIND.
AND I DON'T LIKE IT.
BUT THIS TIME HE MADE A MISTAKE.
THE PROFESSOR IS ON TO HIM. THIS ISN'T TAKING PLACE IN NIGHTMARE'S REALM.
THIS ISN'T NIGHTMARE'S REALM. IT'S A SEPARATE ASTRAL PLANE.
THAT THERE IS THE PROFESSOR'S BAILIWICK.
AND NOW, NIGHTMARE, WHEN WE MEET THE NEXT TIME IT WILL BE BY MY RULES.
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY RULES.
:SNIFF: :SNIFF:
PICKING UP MORE THAN VENOM'S SCENT...
LOOKY HERE...
...YOU'RE OUTDOING YOURSELF, NIGHTMARE!

"AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHY!"

HERE, PUSS, PUSS, PUSS.

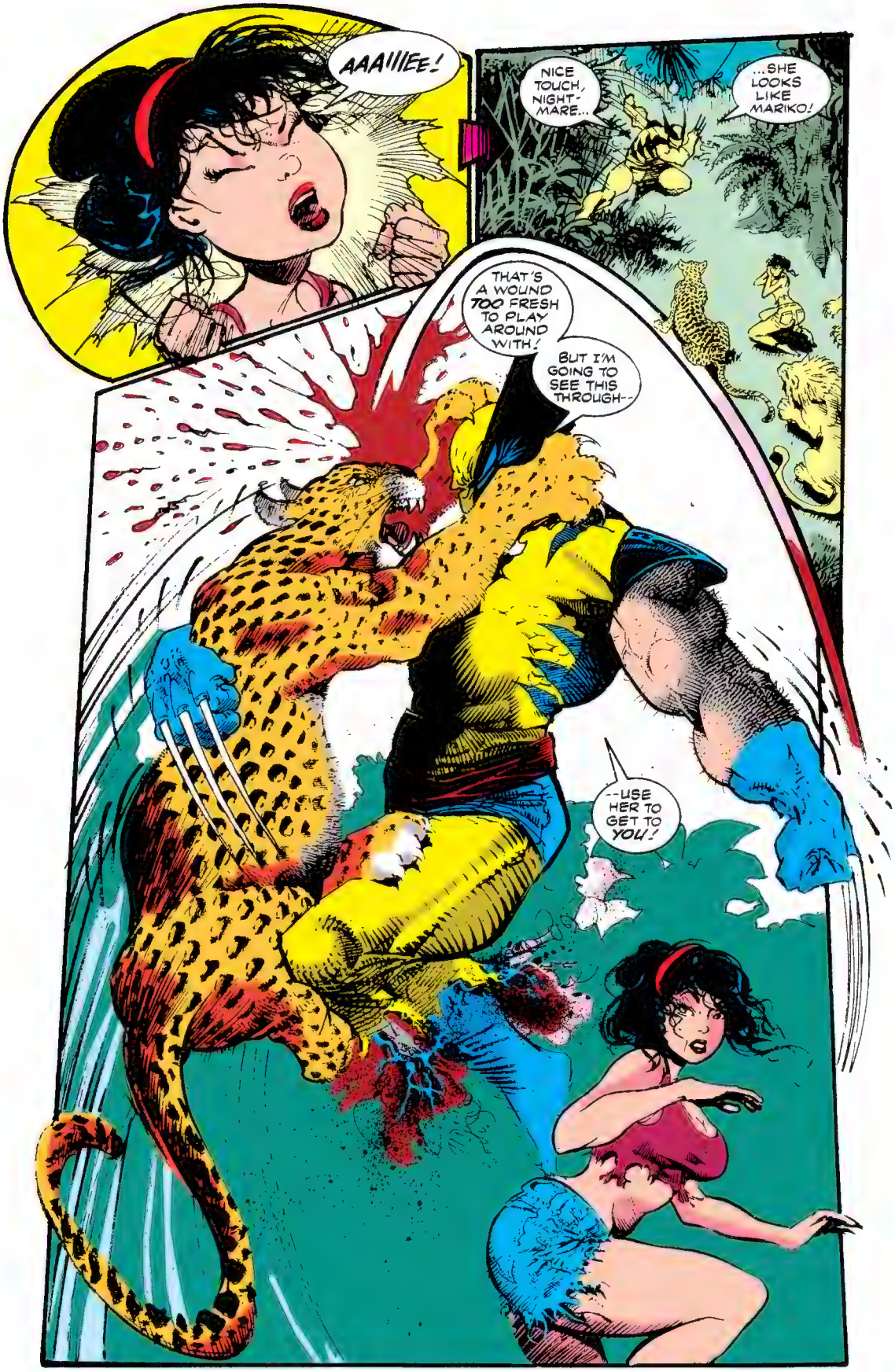
IF YOU WANT A PIECE OF THE LADY...

...YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH US.

OOH! IN THE JUNGLE, THE MIGHTY JUNGLE, THE LION DOESN'T SLEEP TONIGHT.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE FINE, LITTLE LADY!

THE KING OF THE JUNGLE HAS MET HIS MATCH IN US!


AAAIIIEE!
NICE TOUCH, NIGHT-MARE...
...SHE LOOKS LIKE MARIKO!
THAT'S A WOUND TOO FRESH TO PLAY AROUND WITH!
BUT I'M GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH--
--USE HER TO GET TO YOU!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING WITH THE WOMAN, WOLVERINE!
IF SHE IS CONNECTED TO NIGHTMARE, AND WE DOUBT IT, SHE'LL TAKE US TO HIM FOR SAVING HER LIFE.
AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT BELONGS IN A DREAM DIMENSION, VENOM!
AAAAAAAAAAAA
YOU'VE GOT TO NOTHING, WOLVERINE!
SNKT
OOH, CLAWS!
CHUNG!
CHUNG!
NOW I'M SCARED!
SHE'S RABBITING!
I'VE GOT TO--

IF THIS IS A DREAM--
--THEN WE'RE THE HERO...
...THAT MAKES YOU THE VILLAIN.
SO...
YOU'RE DEAD!
SEE, THERE ARE SOME THINGS AS SHARP AS YOUR CLAWS!
FAINK
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

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LETTERERS: DIANA ALBERS & JON BABCOCK • ASSISTANT EDITOR: MARK POWERS • EDITOR: TERRY KAVANAGH

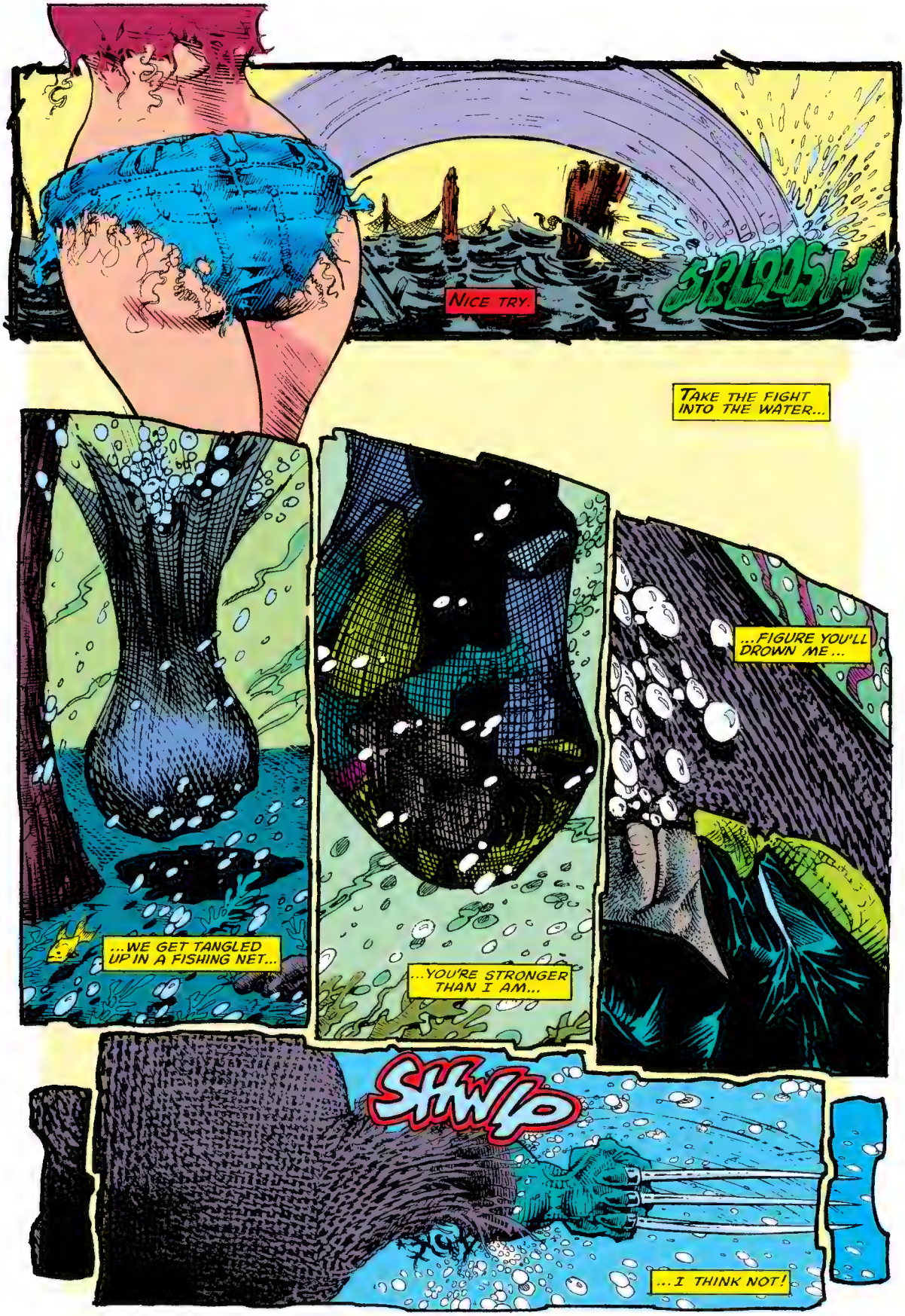
DREAMS CAN'T KILL YOU...
...BUT THEY CAN SURE TRY!
MUTANT HEALING FACTOR KICKING IN.
IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
FLESH AND MUSCLE TRYING TO HEAL OVER THE BRANCH
IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
HURTS LIKE...
IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
CLAWS and WEBS PT. 3
FEATURING
WOLVERINE & VENOM

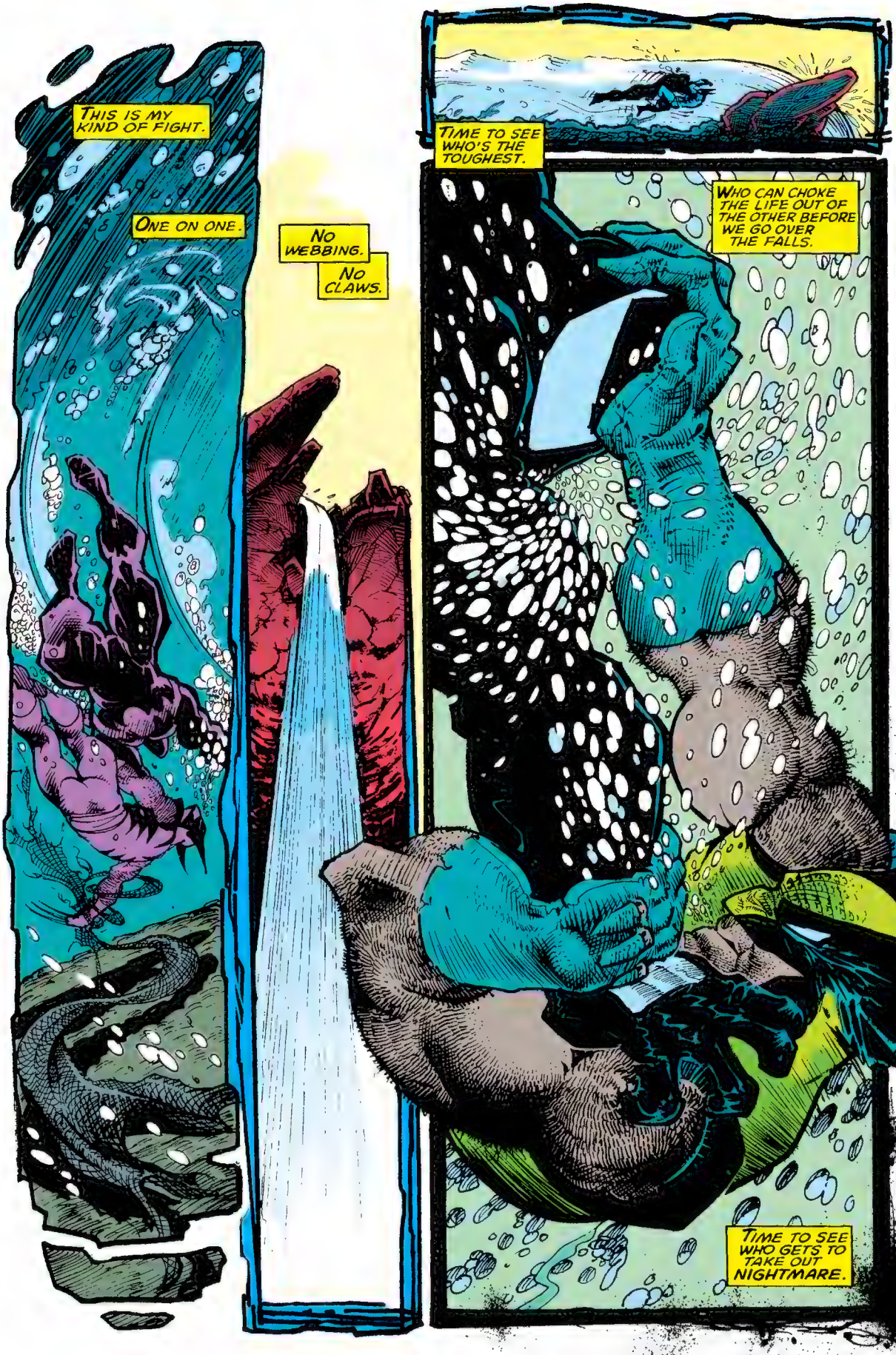
YOU REALLY HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE, HAVE YOU, WOLVERINE?
NIGHTMARE.
WOULD A DREAM HURT SO MUCH?
NIGHTMARE.
CAN A DREAM KILL YOU?
WELL, LET ME ASSURE YOU, YOU CAN AND WILL DIE HERE.

PERHAPS NOT TODAY.
TODAY IS FOR SUFFERING.
FOR FEAR.
I NEED YOU ON THE EDGE OF FEAR IN ORDER TO REAP THAT WHICH YOUR MIND HOLDS.
KEEP COMING, WOLVERINE, I'LL BE WAITING.
BUT, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD FIND *VENOM*. PERHAPS *HE* CAN LEAD YOU TO ME.
HIM AND THE *GIRL*.
PERHAPS THEY HOLD THE CLUES THAT YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR?
NIGHTMARE! VENOM! I'M...

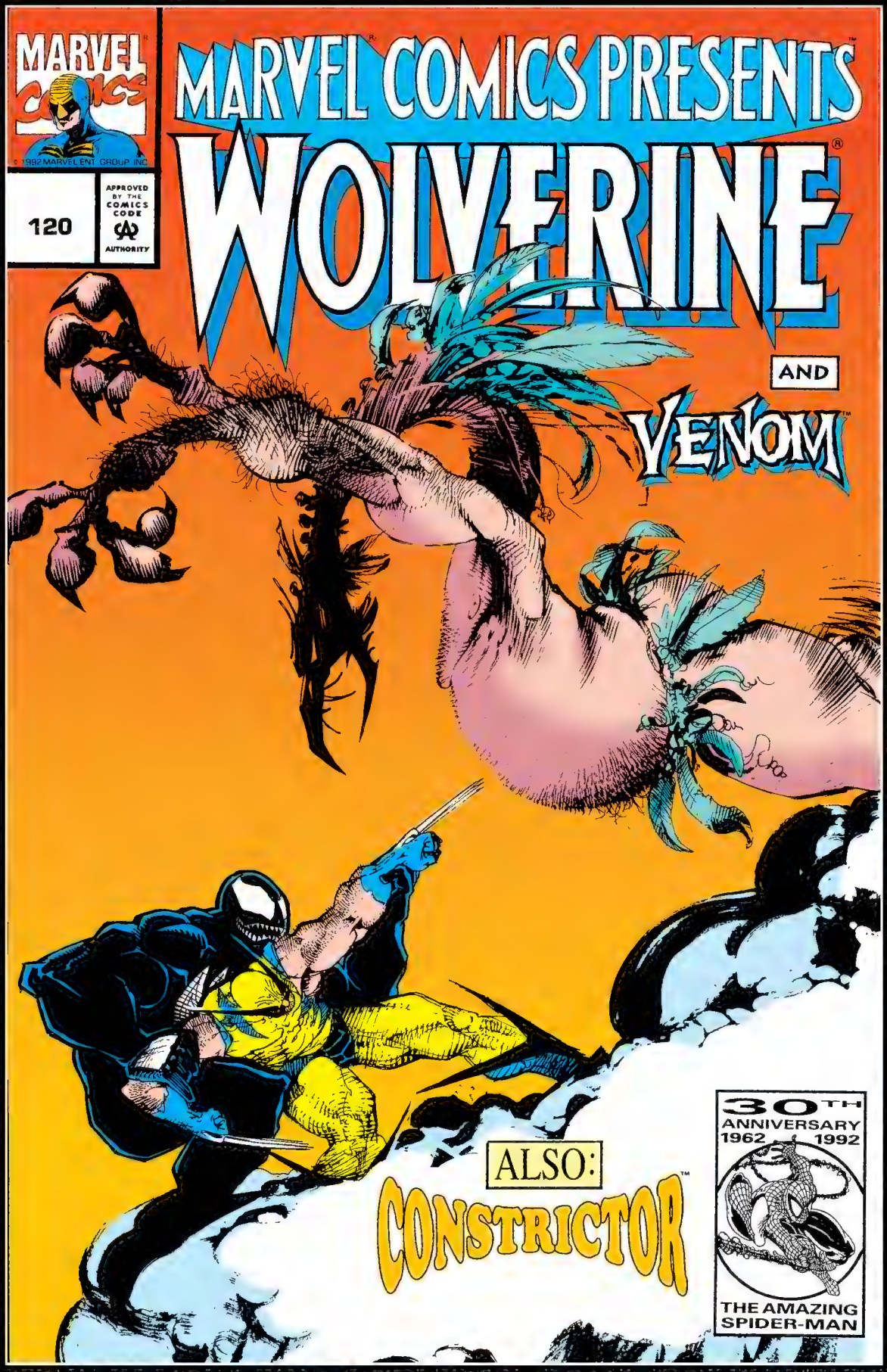
...COMING...
SNIKT
...FOR...
...YOU!
ELSEWHERE...
AH! MUSIC TO MY EARS!
NOW THAT WE SAVED YOU FROM THE RUNT WITH CLAWS, LITTLE LADY...
...WE WANT SOME ANSWERS!
THIS ISN'T A NORMAL DREAM. WE CAN SENSE THERE IS MORE TO IT. YOU HAVE SOME ANSWERS AND WE WANT THEM.
I-I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
DON'T LIE TO US! HOW DID NIGHTMARE PULL US TO THIS PLACE?
WE WANT ANSWERS!
SNIKT SNIKT
I'VE GOT YOUR ANSWERS FOR YOU!
WOLVERINE? YOU SURVIVED?

I LIKE TO MAKE A HABIT OF THAT!
WHAT SAY WE START UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, VENOM?
SOUNDS GOOD TO US!


NICE TRY.
SPLOOSH
TAKE THE FIGHT INTO THE WATER...
...WE GET TANGLED UP IN A FISHING NET...
...YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I AM...
...FIGURE YOU'LL DROWN ME...
SHWOP
...I THINK NOT!


THIS IS MY KIND OF FIGHT.
ONE ON ONE.
NO WEBBING.
NO CLAWS.
TIME TO SEE WHO'S THE TOUGHEST.
WHO CAN CHOKE THE LIFE OUT OF THE OTHER BEFORE WE GO OVER THE FALLS.
TIME TO SEE WHO GETS TO TAKE OUT NIGHTMARE.

LAST ONE DOWN IS A ROTTEN EGG!
SEE YOU AT THE BOTTOM, BUB!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...



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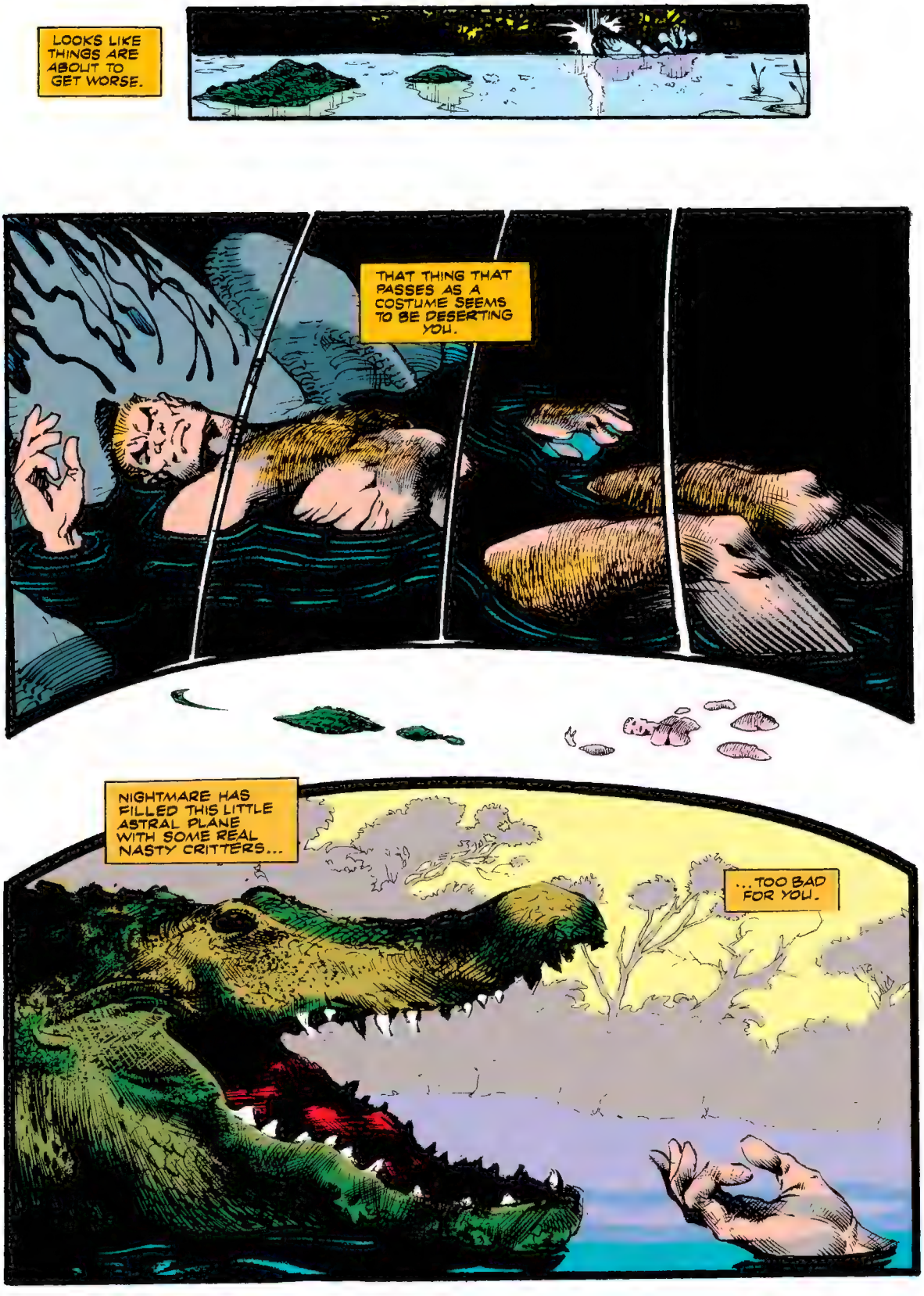
DREAMING WITH THE ENEMY
PROFESSOR?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YOU WERE RIGHT...
...THIS IS MORE THAN A DREAM.
NIGHTMARE IS SCREWING WITH MY MIND..
...BROUGHT ME TO THIS ASTRAL PLANE...
...SOMEHOW TAPPED INTO VENOM AND BROUGHT HIM ALONG TOO...
...BUT WHY?
PROFESSOR?
STARRING
WOLVERINE
AND
VENOM

NO?
GUESS I'M ON MY OWN FOR NOW!
ME AND MY STOGIE!
...AIN'T DREAMS A KICK?!
SURVIVES A TWO-HUNDRED FOOT FALL OVER A RAGING WATER-FALL AND LIGHTS UP AS EASY AS CAN BE.
VENOM, YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T LOOK SO HOT!
LOOKS LIKE THE DROP FROM THE FALLS TOOK THE WIND OUT OF YOUR SAILS.
NOTHING A FEW ADAMANTIUM BONES COUPLED WITH A MUTANT HEALING FACTOR WOULDN'T HELP.


LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET WORSE.
THAT THING THAT PASSES AS A COSTUME SEEMS TO BE DESERTING YOU.
NIGHTMARE HAS FILLED THIS LITTLE ASTRAL PLANE WITH SOME REAL NASTY CRITTERS...
...TOO BAD FOR YOU.

OH, WHAT THE HECK?
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH
CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU GOBBLED UP..
...I NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH NIGHTMARE IS.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE A TEAM, VENOM!

DON'T MOVE YET! NEITHER OF US MAY BE ABLE TO KILL THE OTHER HERE, BUT I BET I CAN HURT YOU A REAL LOT...
JUST LIKE YOU HURT ME!
THIS IS THE DEAL. I HAVE NO FIGHT WITH YOU. YOU HAVE NO FIGHT WITH ME.
THIS NIGHTMARE LOONY IS PLAYING AROUND WITH BOTH OUR MINDS. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
I WANT TO FIND OUT. IF YOU WANT TO JOIN ME-- GREAT. IF NOT... WHO CARES?
WHAT'LL IT BE?
WE WANT NIGHT-MARE.
GOOD!
JUST ONE MORE THING I WANT TO GET STRAIGHT BETWEEN US.
WHAT'S THAT?
SNIKT
THIS!

THAT WAS FOR IMPALING ME ON THE TREE.
IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER, I SHOULDN'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
I THINK WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET ALONG JUST FINE.
THE GIRL?
YUP! AND IT'S COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF NIGHTMARE'S MOUNTAIN.

YOU KNOW THAT SHE'S PROBABLY IN ON THIS AND THAT IT'S ALL A SETUP, DON'T YOU?
BUT SHE MAY BE AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF NIGHTMARE'S PULLED INTO PLACE LIKE US!
VENOM, YOU OLD SOFTY! I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CROSS THIS DESOLATE PLANE...
...SCALE THE MOUNTAIN...
...AND RESCUE THE GIRL!

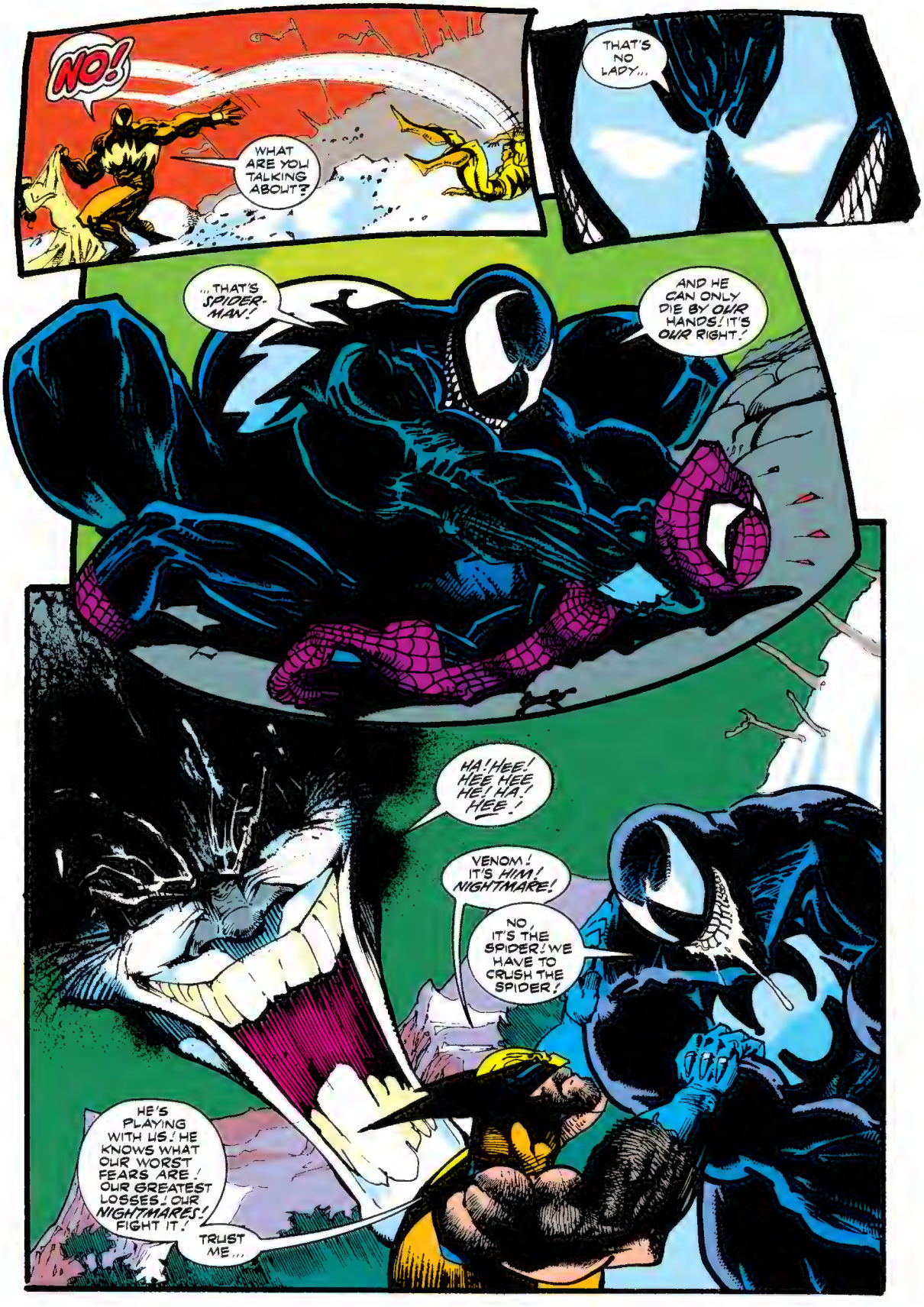
TO BE CONTINUED...

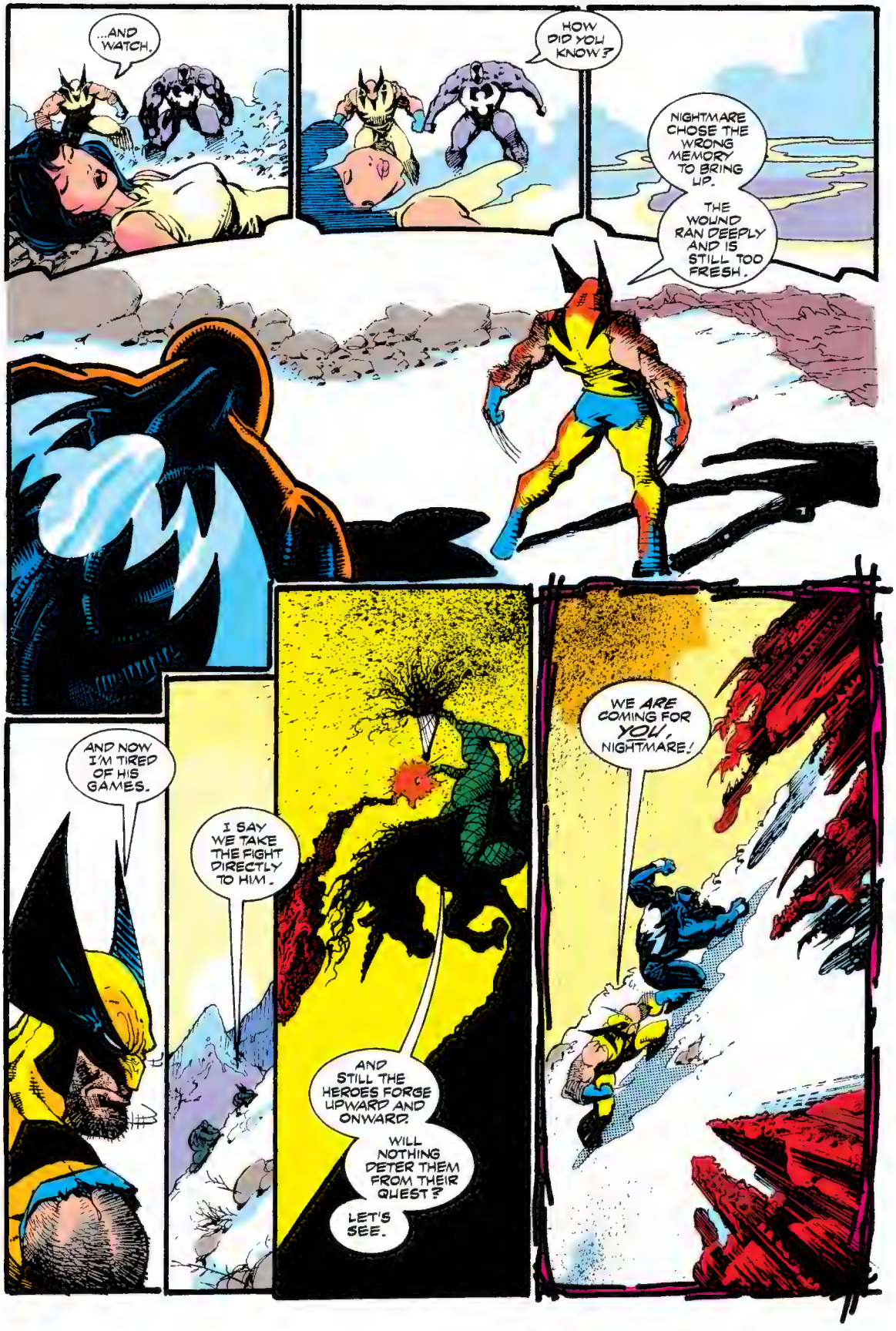
WRITER: HOWARD MACKIE • BREAKDOWNS: SAM KIETH • FINISHER: DWAYNE TURNER • COLORIST: MIKE THOMAS
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO • ASSISTANT EDITOR: MARK POWERS • EDITOR: TERRY KAVANAGH

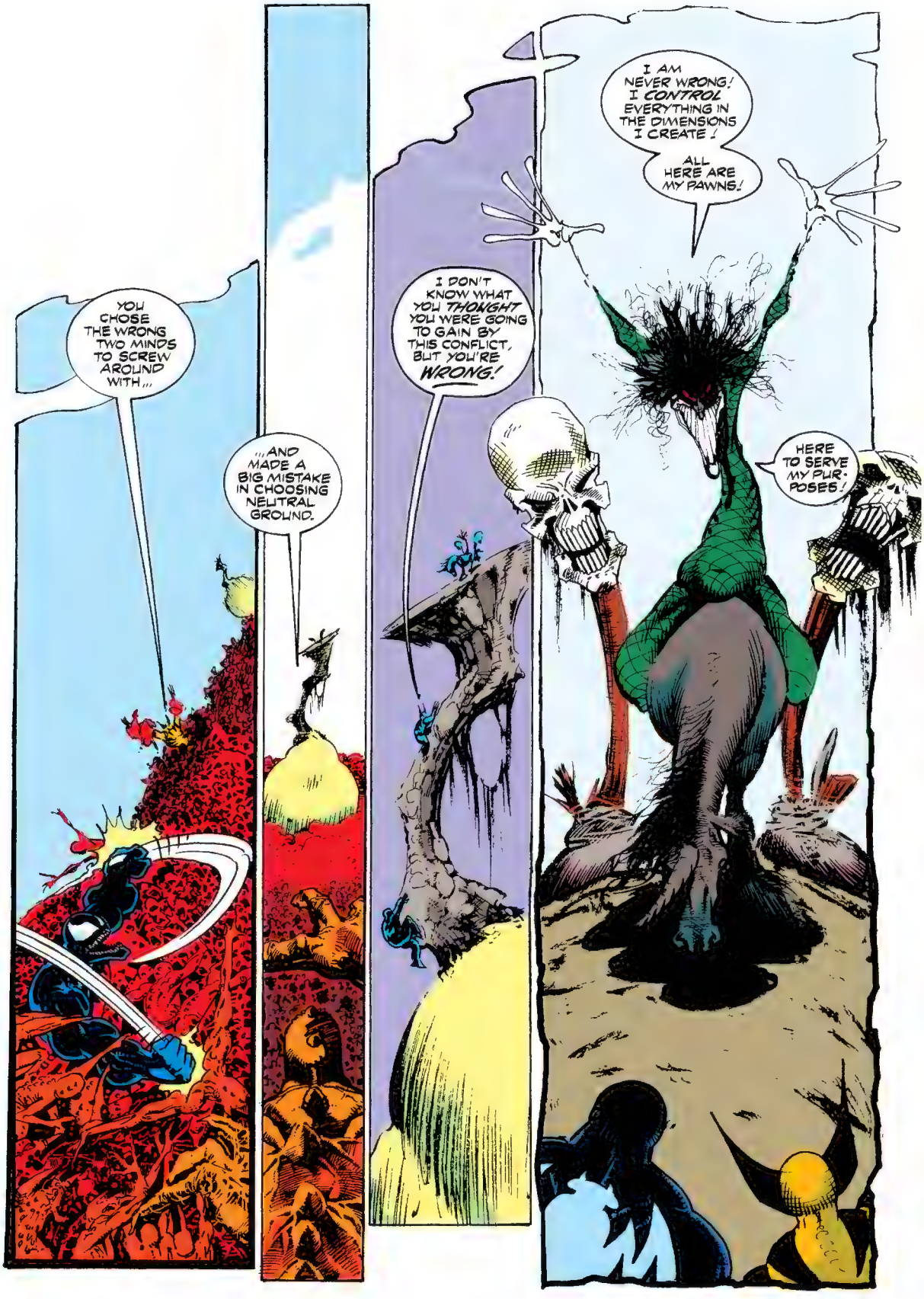
CLAWS AND WEBS PART 5:
DREAM SCARS
FEATURING
WOLVERINE AND VENOM
AS BIG AND UGLY AS IT IS, VENOM, IT'S JUST ANOTHER OF NIGHTMARE'S CREATIONS.
THOUGH IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GONNA GET TO THE GIRL AND TO NIGHTMARE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE US, WOLVERINE...
...WE LIKE BIG AND UGLY!

HEE! HEE HEE HEEEE!
LOOK AT THE BIG STRONG SUPER HEROES!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET TO ME BY DEFEATING ONE OF MY PETS?
AND, IF YOU DID, DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT EITHER OF *YOU* WOULD STAND A CHANCE AGAINST *ME*? DO YOU THINK I'M *AFRAID*?
I THINK NOT.
I EAT, SLEEP AND BREATHE *FEAR*!
I AM A *FEAR MASTER*!
THE MASTER OF THE REALM OF NIGHTMARES!
THE MASTER OF MANKIND'S INNERMOST FEARS!
AND *SOON* THE MASTER OF MUCH, MUCH MORE!
FORGIVE US IF WE DON'T FALL DOWN SHAKING WITH FEAR!

WE HAVE IT, WOLVERINE! GO FOR THE--
I'VE BEEN USING MY ADAMANTIUM CLAWS FOR A WHILE, BUDDY...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME HOW TO USE THEM!
OH, THE EVIL MONSTER HAS FALLEN DEAD BEFORE THE BIG HEROES!
OR WAS IT A MONSTER AFTER ALL?
PERHAPS IT WAS THE INNOCENT GIRL THE HEROES SOUGHT TO PROTECT?
PERHAPS IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE?
MARIKO.
YES, LOGAN. MARIKO. YOUR LOST TRUE LOVE.
SHE WHO WAS DYING PAINFULLY IN YOUR ARMS...
...POISON COURSING THROUGH HER VEINS.
PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY, LOGAN.
AS YOU DID BEFORE.
SNIK!
MARIKO...
...FORGIVE ME.

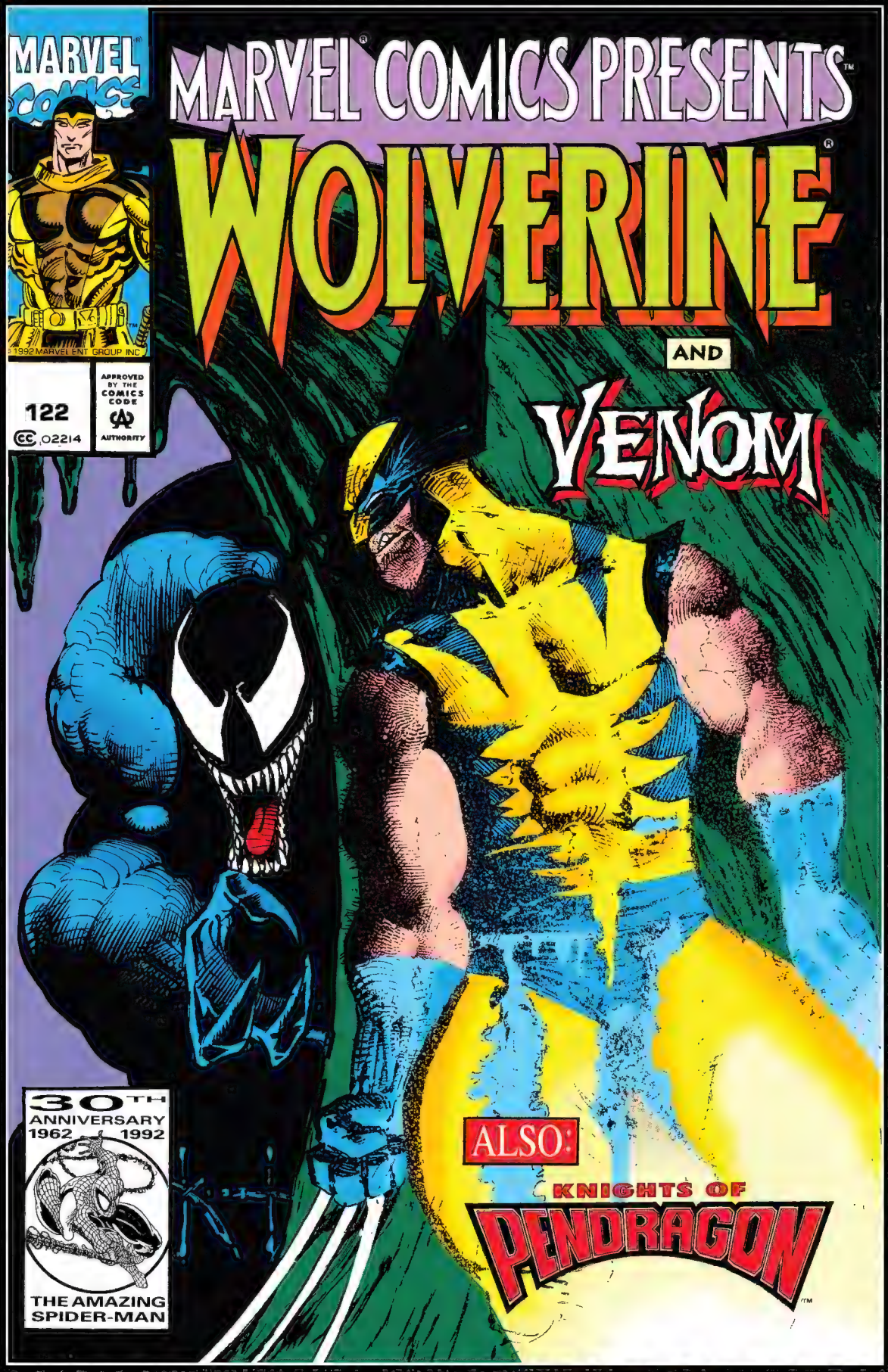

NO!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S NO LADY...
...THAT'S SPIDER-MAN!
AND HE CAN ONLY DIE BY OUR HANDS! IT'S OUR RIGHT!
HA! HEE! HEE HEE HE! HA! HEE!
VENOM! IT'S HIM! NIGHTMARE!
NO, IT'S THE SPIDER! WE HAVE TO CRUSH THE SPIDER!
HE'S PLAYING WITH US! HE KNOWS WHAT OUR WORST FEARS ARE! OUR GREATEST LOSSES! OUR NIGHTMARES! FIGHT IT!
TRUST ME...


...AND WATCH.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
NIGHTMARE CHOSE THE WRONG MEMORY TO BRING UP.
THE WOUND RAN DEEPLY AND IS STILL TOO FRESH.
AND NOW I'M TIRED OF HIS GAMES.
I SAY WE TAKE THE FIGHT DIRECTLY TO HIM.
AND STILL THE HEROES FORGE UPWARD AND ONWARD.
WILL NOTHING DETER THEM FROM THEIR QUEST?
LET'S SEE.
WE ARE COMING FOR YOU, NIGHTMARE!


YOU CHOSE THE WRONG TWO MINDS TO SCREW AROUND WITH...
...AND MADE A BIG MISTAKE IN CHOOSING NEUTRAL GROUND.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GAIN BY THIS CONFLICT, BUT YOU'RE WRONG!
I AM NEVER WRONG! I CONTROL EVERYTHING IN THE DIMENSIONS I CREATE!
ALL HERE ARE MY PAWNS!
HERE TO SERVE MY PURPOSES!

WE SERVE NO ONE!
WEREN'T EXPECTING THIS, WERE YOU?
WE'LL EAT HIS BRAINS!
NO. MAYBE NOW HE'LL BE WILLING TO TALK!
THE TIME FOR TALKING IS OVER!
THIS IS WHAT WE WANTED ALL ALONG!

HA HA HA HA
THE THREADS OF REALITY WILL BEGIN TO UNWIND!
YOU, WOLVERINE, WILL BE MY PATH TO YOUR DIMENSION.
SO YOU SEE...
...YOU WERE MY PAWN ALL ALONG!
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...



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Nightmare's END!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
WOLVERINE!
YOU HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME!
GIVEN IT ALL TO ME!
AND VENOM-- YOU HELPED!
CLAWS & WEBS PART: VI
WOLVERINE AND VENOM

AND NOW, AS THIS ***ASTRAL PLANE*** UNRAVELS AND CONSUMES YOU BOTH, I HAVE ACCESS TO ONE OF THE GREATEST MINDS OF YOUR DIMENSION...

...***PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER***--

--***A MUTANT TELEPATH*** WHOSE ABILITIES ARE UNPARALLELED!

AND NOW I HAVE TO THANK YOU, WOLVERINE, FOR ALLOWING ME TO ESTABLISH A PSYCHIC BOND WITH HIM.

HOW?

I KNEW, IF I KEPT ASSAULTING YOU IN YOUR DREAM STATE, THAT YOU WOULD TURN TO THE PROFESSOR FOR AID.

BY DOING SO YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A THREAD BACK TO HIS MIND THROUGH YOURS.

HE WHO HAS SHIELDED HIMSELF FROM MY PSYCHIC ASSAULTS FOR FAR TOO LONG WILL BE MINE TO USE.

AND THROUGH HIM I WILL GAIN ACCESS TO ***EVERY LIVING*** BEING IN YOUR DIMENSION AT ONCE!

EVEN ***HE*** HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE UNLIMITED POWERS OF HIS MIND.

FEEDING OFF THE ***FEAR*** OF THE WORLD ALL AT ONCE WILL RAISE THE SCOPE OF MY POWERS... MY ***STRENGTH***... TO GODLIKE PROPORTIONS!

BUT WHY ALL THIS?

ONCE YOU HAD ME HERE YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD THE CONNECTION?

WHY *VENOM?* WHY THE FIGHTING?

I NEEDED YOU TO FEEL AS THOUGH YOU WERE WINNING.

YOUR DEFENSES HAD TO BE LOWERED. PROFESSOR X HAD TO BE MADE TO THINK THAT YOU WERE SAFE IN HIS CARE.

NOW MY OPENING ... MY THREAD... WILL SOON BE FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN HIS PSYCHE.

THE PLANE ON WHICH WE ***BATTLED*** WAS CREATED OUT OF PART OF MY OWN ***ESSENCE.***

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, IT *IS ME!*

AND AS IT UNRAVELS, ALL THE BITS AND PIECES WILL SWALLOW YOU UP!

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO BORE INTO YOUR MIND, INTO YOUR PSYCHE... AND ONCE THEY ***HAVE--***

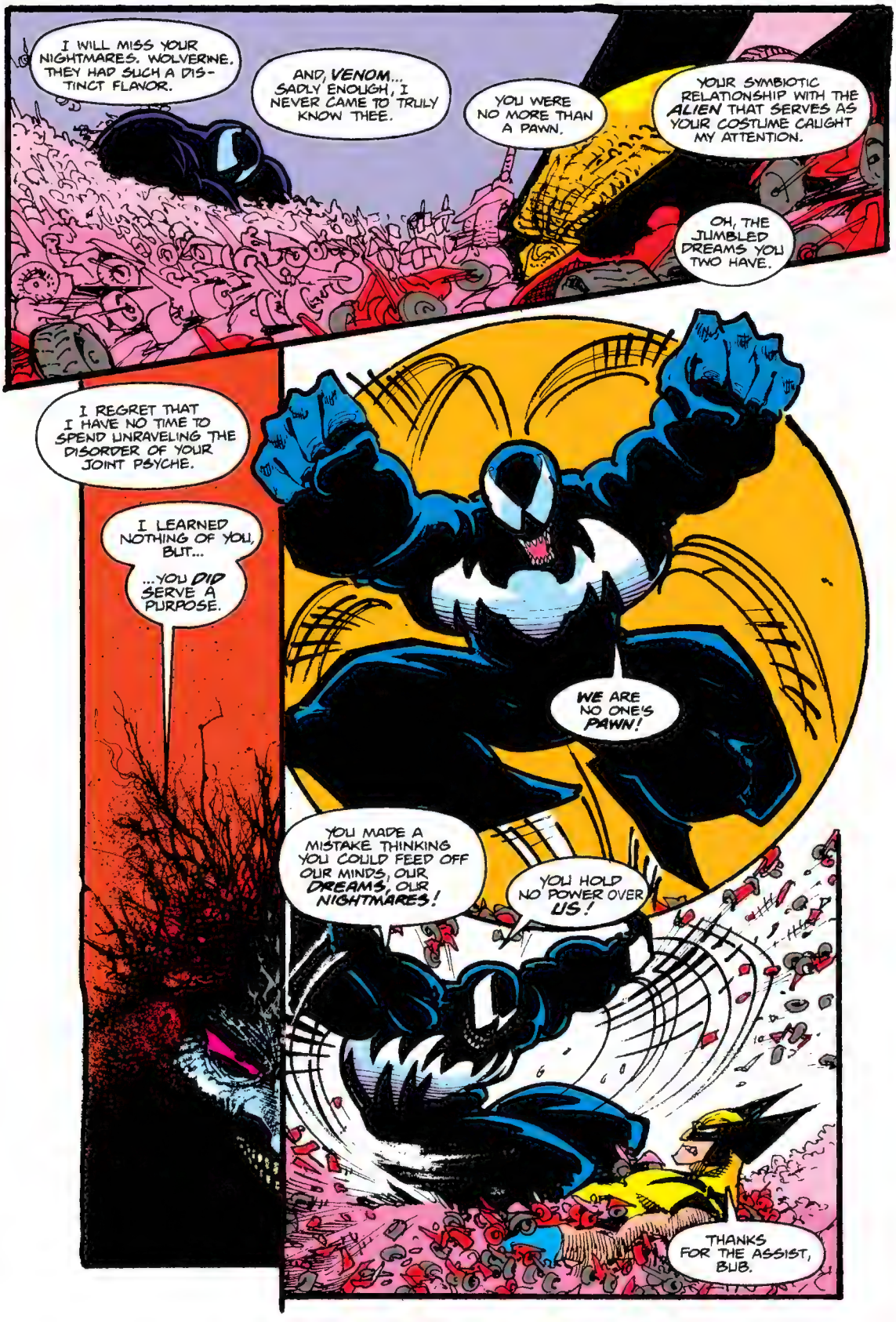
--I WILL RIDE THAT LINK STRAIGHT TO THE MIND OF ***PROFESSOR XAVIER!***

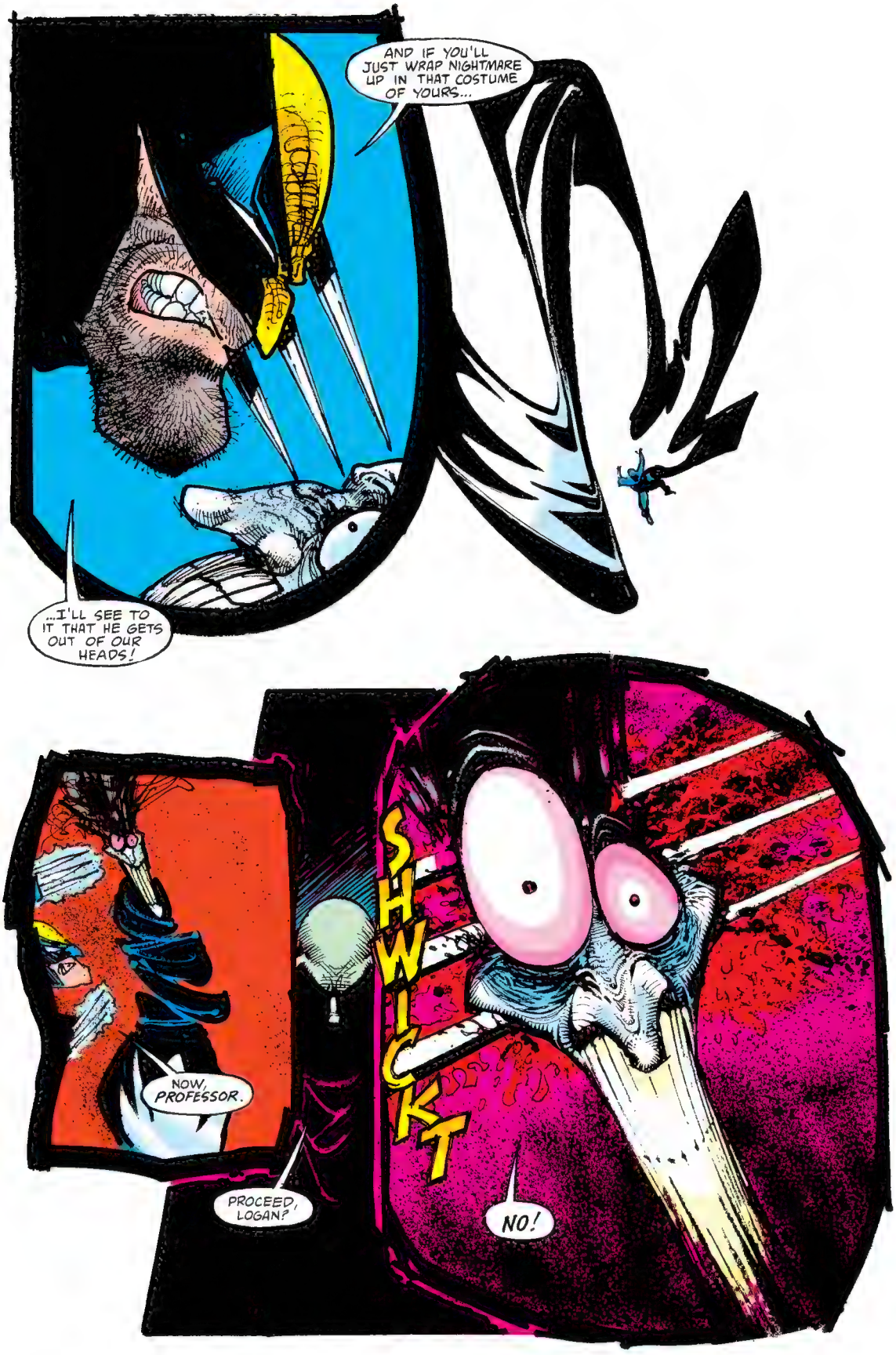
YOU WILL DISAPPEAR, ***WOLVERINE!***

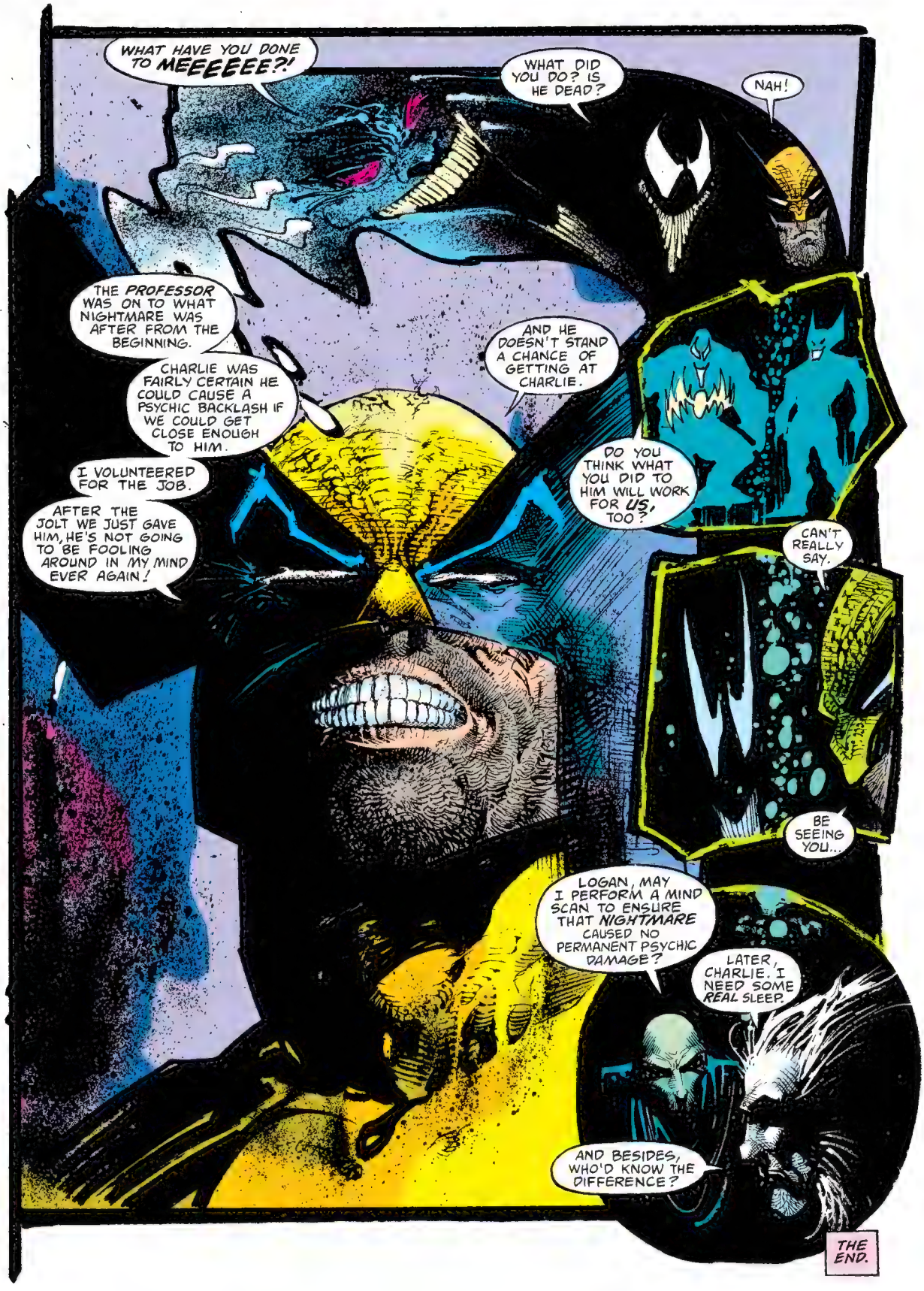
YOU AND ***VENOM*** WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO EXIST ON YOUR PLANE.

Oh, I STAND CORRECTED!

WITH YOUR HELP, IT WILL BE ***MY*** PLANE!


I WILL MISS YOUR NIGHTMARES, WOLVERINE. THEY HAD SUCH A DISTINCT FLAVOR.
AND, VENOM... SADLY ENOUGH, I NEVER CAME TO TRULY KNOW THEE.
YOU WERE NO MORE THAN A PAWN.
YOUR SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALIEN THAT SERVES AS YOUR COSTUME CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
OH, THE JUMBLED DREAMS YOU TWO HAVE.
I REGRET THAT I HAVE NO TIME TO SPEND UNRAVELING THE DISORDER OF YOUR JOINT PSYCHE.
I LEARNED NOTHING OF YOU, BUT...
...YOU DID SERVE A PURPOSE.
WE ARE NO ONE'S PAWN!
YOU MADE A MISTAKE THINKING YOU COULD FEED OFF OUR MINDS, OUR DREAMS, OUR NIGHTMARES!
YOU HOLD NO POWER OVER US!
THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, BUB.


AND IF YOU'LL JUST WRAP NIGHTMARE UP IN THAT COSTUME OF YOURS...
...I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE GETS OUT OF OUR HEADS!
NOW, PROFESSOR.
PROCEED, LOGAN?
SHWICKT
NO!


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MEEEEEE?!
WHAT DID YOU DO? IS HE DEAD?
NAH!
THE PROFESSOR WAS ON TO WHAT NIGHTMARE WAS AFTER FROM THE BEGINNING.
CHARLIE WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN HE COULD CAUSE A PSYCHIC BACKLASH IF WE COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM.
AND HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE OF GETTING AT CHARLIE.
I VOLUNTEERED FOR THE JOB.
AFTER THE JOLT WE JUST GAVE HIM, HE'S NOT GOING TO BE FOOLING AROUND IN MY MIND EVER AGAIN!
DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU DID TO HIM WILL WORK FOR US, TOO?
CAN'T REALLY SAY.
BE SEEING YOU..
LOGAN, MAY I PERFORM A MIND SCAN TO ENSURE THAT NIGHTMARE CAUSED NO PERMANENT PSYCHIC DAMAGE?
LATER, CHARLIE. I NEED SOME REAL SLEEP.
AND BESIDES, WHO'D KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
THE END.

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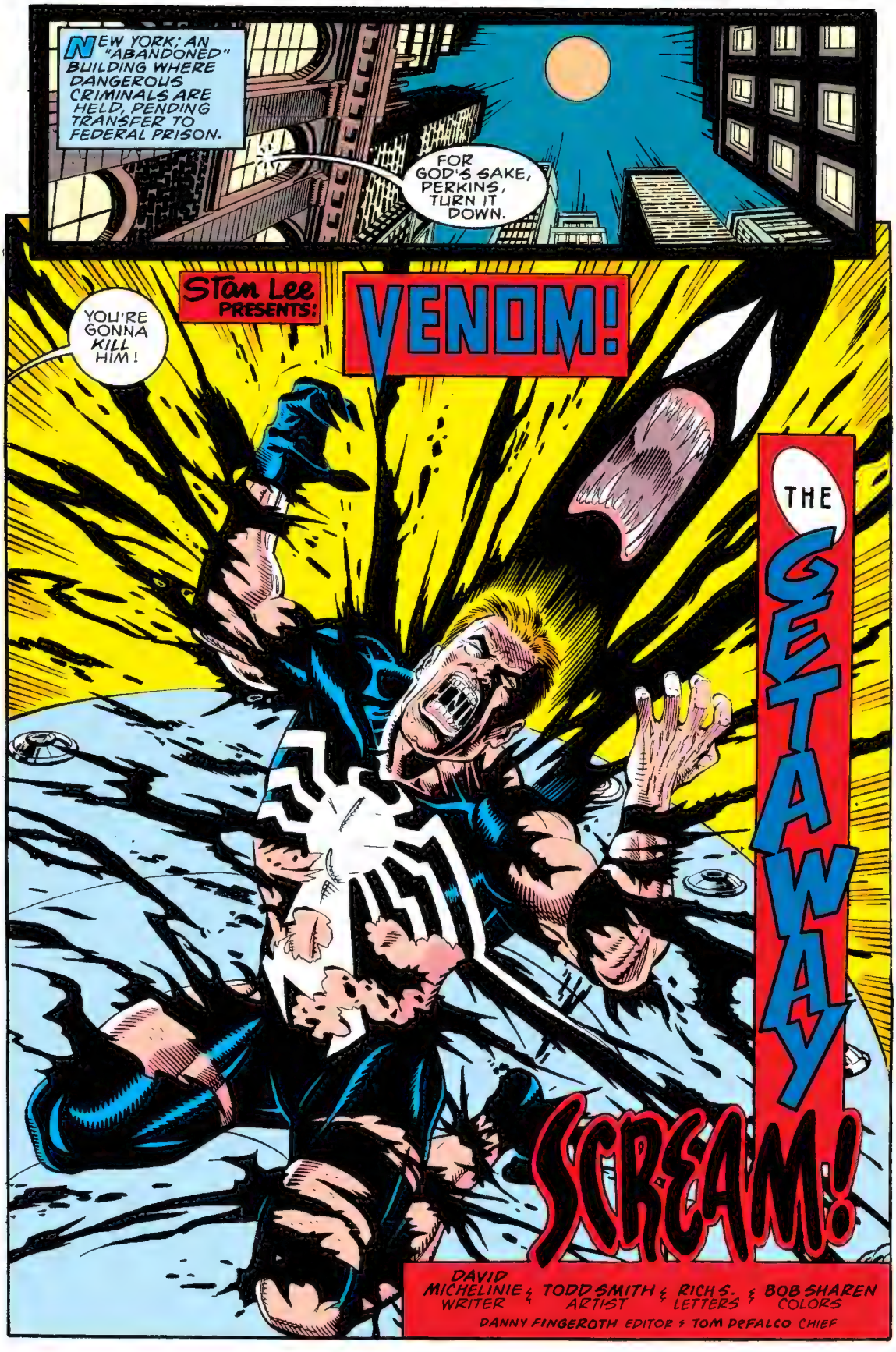
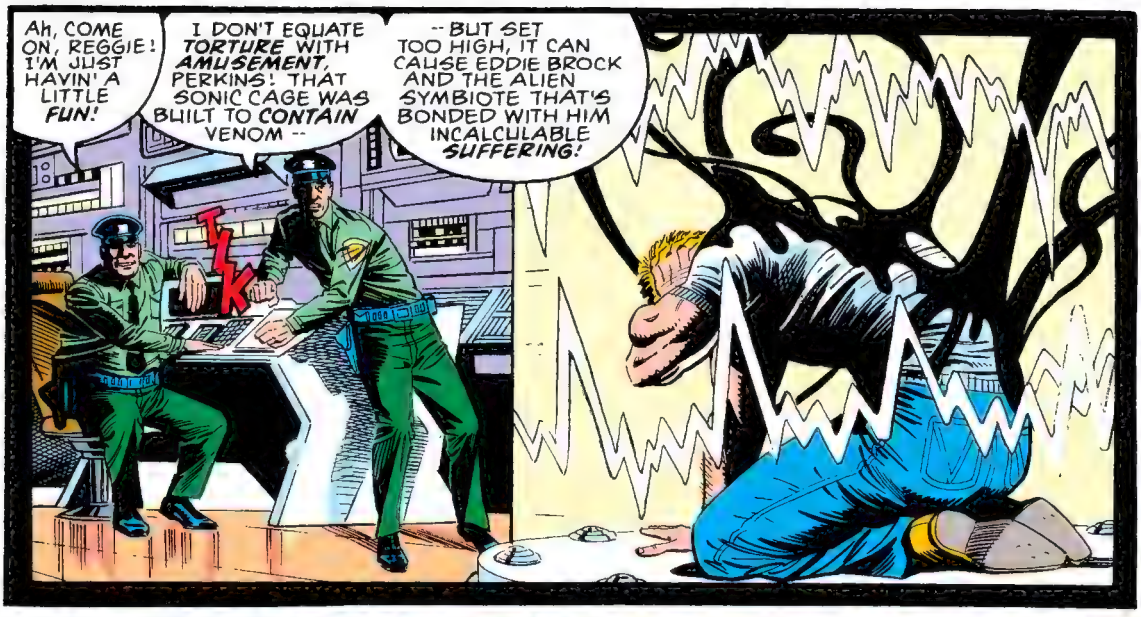
INSIDE: A GREAT NEW TALE OF VENOM!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
NOW ON SALE TWICE A MONTH!
INVASION OF THE SPIDER-SLAYERS CONCLUSION!
BAGS + RE 92
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN


NEW YORK: AN "ABANDONED" BUILDING WHERE DANGEROUS CRIMINALS ARE HELD, PENDING TRANSFER TO FEDERAL PRISON.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, PERKINS, TURN IT DOWN.
YOU'RE GONNA KILL HIM!
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VENOM!
THE GETAWAY SCREAM!
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER & TODD SMITH ARTIST & RICH S. LETTERS & BOB SHAREN COLORS
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO CHIEF


Ah, COME ON, REGGIE! I'M JUST HAVIN' A LITTLE FUN!
I DON'T EQUATE TORTURE WITH AMUSEMENT, PERKINS! THAT SONIC CAGE WAS BUILT TO CONTAIN VENOM --
-- BUT SET TOO HIGH, IT CAN CAUSE EDDIE BROCK AND THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT'S BONDED WITH HIM INCALCULABLE SUFFERING!
TK

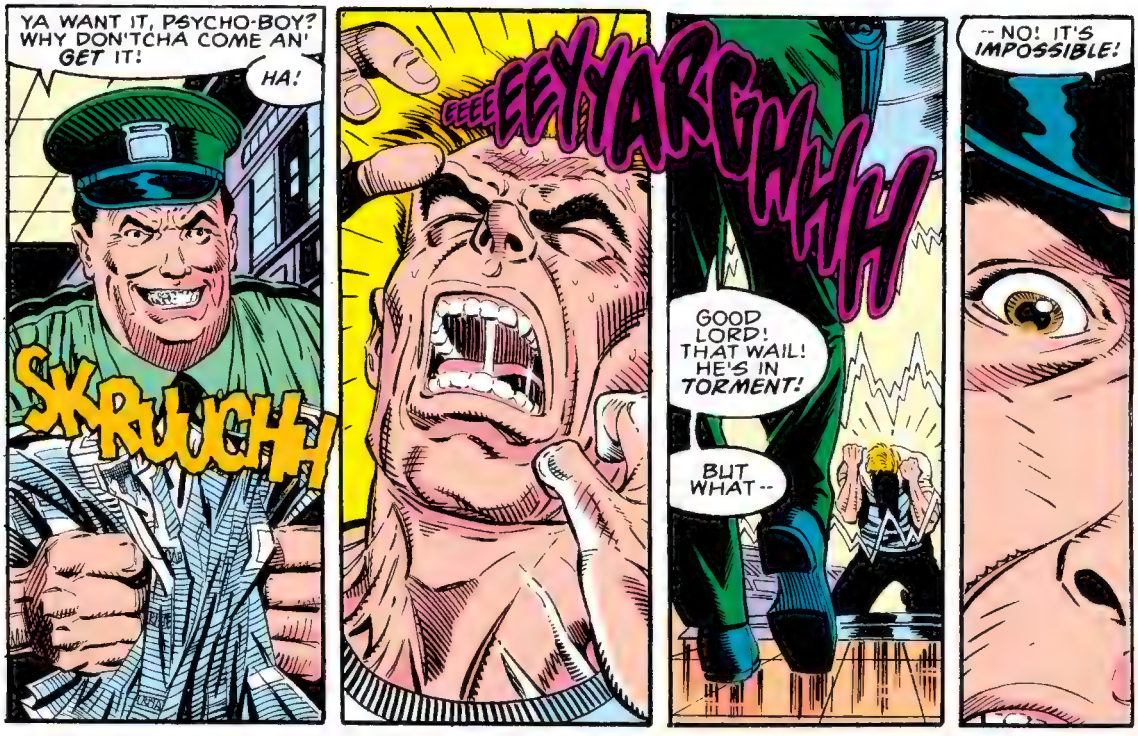
YEAH = Heh! = I KNOW.
I'M SORRY, BROCK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

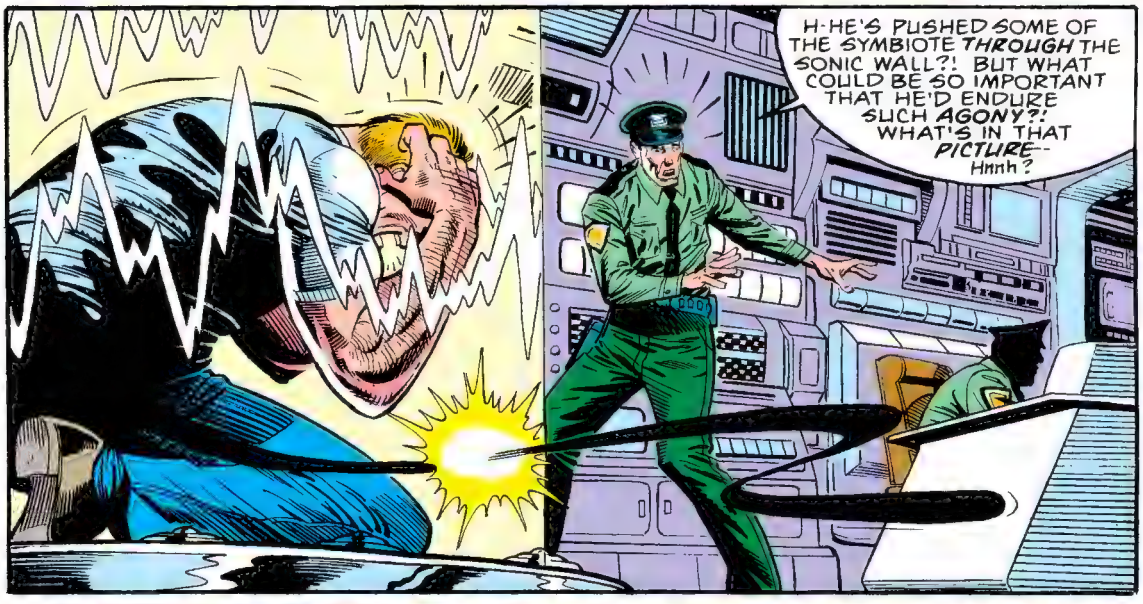
WE... WE'RE BETTER, NOW. THANK YOU FOR -- Eh?!
THAT PICTURE! ON THE BACK OF THE NEWSPAPER!

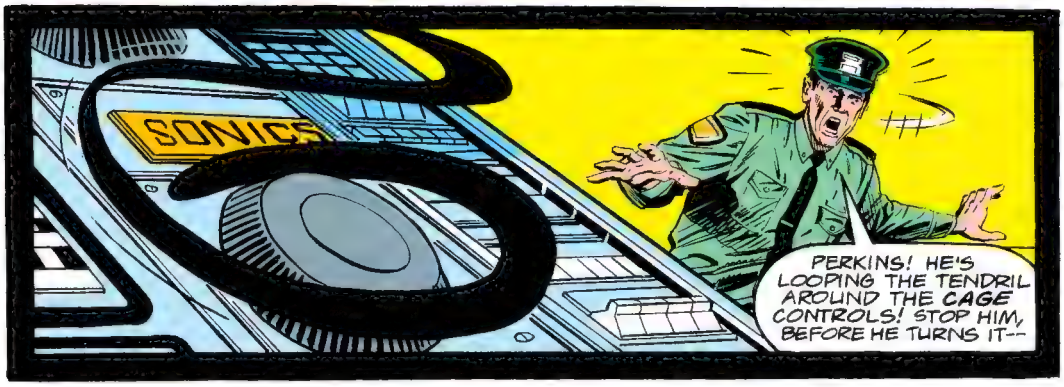
GIVE IT TO US! WE HAVE TO SEE--

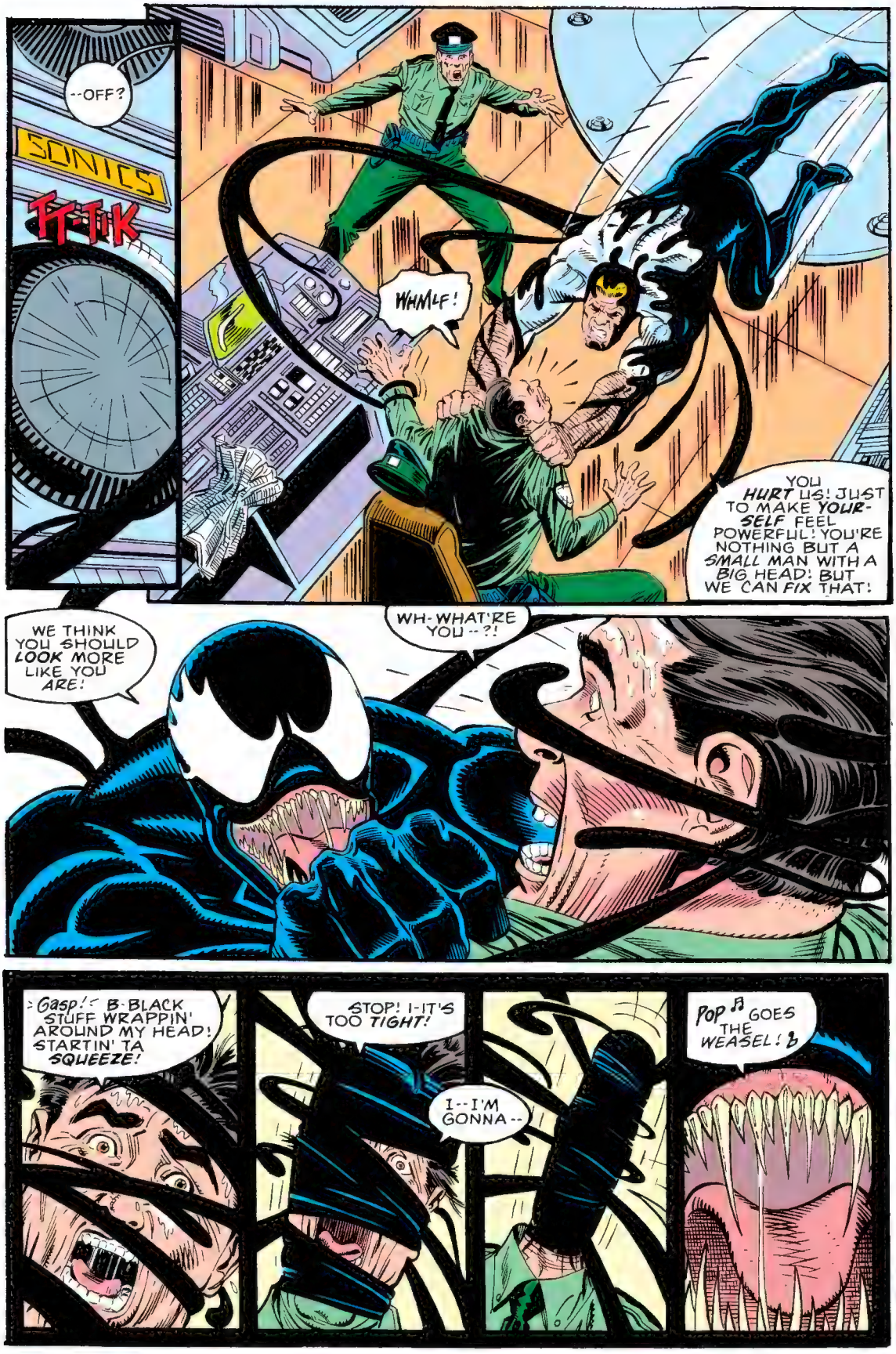
ZZZT

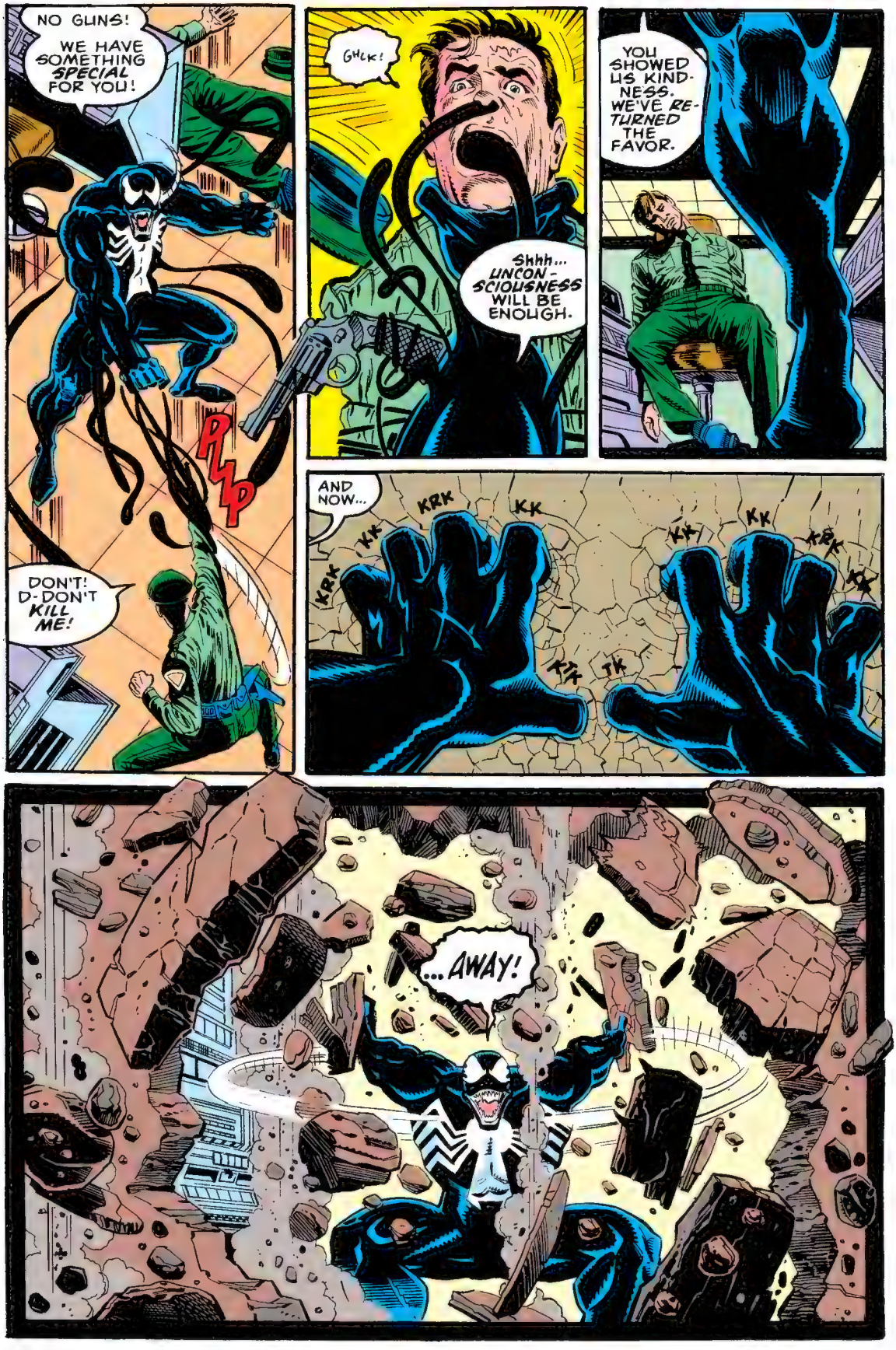
P-PLEASE..!


YA WANT IT, PSYCHO-BOY? WHY DON'TCHA COME AN' GET IT!
HA!
SKRUCH
CEEEEEEYYARGHHH
GOOD LORD! THAT WAIL! HE'S IN TORMENT!
BUT WHAT--
--NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


H-HE'S PUSHED SOME OF THE SYMBIOTE THROUGH THE SONIC WALL?! BUT WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT THAT HE'D ENDURE SUCH AGONY?! WHAT'S IN THAT PICTURE-- Hmnh?


SONICS
PERKINS! HE'S LOOPING THE TENDRIL AROUND THE CAGE CONTROLS! STOP HIM, BEFORE HE TURNS IT--


--OFF?
SONICS
PT-TK
WHMLF!
YOU HURT US! JUST TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL POWERFUL! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SMALL MAN WITH A BIG HEAD! BUT WE CAN FIX THAT!
WE THINK YOU SHOULD LOOK MORE LIKE YOU ARE!
WH-WHAT'RE YOU--?!
Gasp!= B-BLACK STUFF WRAPPIN' AROUND MY HEAD! STARTIN' TA SQUEEZE!
STOP! I-IT'S TOO TIGHT!
I--I'M GONNA--
Pop♫ GOES THE WEASEL!♫


NO GUNS!
WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU!
PLD
DON'T! D-DON'T KILL ME!
GHLK!
Shhh... UNCON-SCIOUSNESS WILL BE ENOUGH.
YOU SHOWED US KIND-NESS. WE'VE RE-TURNED THE FAVOR.
AND NOW...
KRK
KK
KK
KK
KK
KRK
KRK
KK
TK
...AWAY!

NOISE BROUGHT OTHER GUARDS!
NO MATTER.
WE'VE GOT WHAT WE WANTED!
KBRAK
BDAM BDAM
SOON, SEVERAL BLOCKS DISTANT...
YES, I KNOW. PUSHING THAT BIT OF YOU THROUGH THE SOUND CAGE WAS EXRUCIATING! THE ONLY GREATER PAIN WE'VE SUFFERED HAS BEEN AT THE HANDS OF PETER PARKER -- THE DEVIL KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN!
BUT WITH THIS NEW INFORMATION THAT PROVIDENCE HAS PROVIDED--
PARKER'S PARENTS FOUND ALIVE AFTER 20 YEARS!
BUGLE PHOTOGRAPHER'S OWN STORY!
INDANGERED!
-- WE MAY SOON BE ABLE TO EVEN THAT SCORE!
NEXT ISSUE
VENOM VS. SPIDEY WITH HIS PARENTS' LIVES AT STAKE! (THE COUNTDOWN TO OUR GIANT-SIZED 375TH ISSUE -- WHICH IS ALSO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1)

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VENOM™ ATTACKS!
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
THE V-MAN'S TARGETS: RICHARD AND MARY PARKER!
BAGS + 92 RE
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

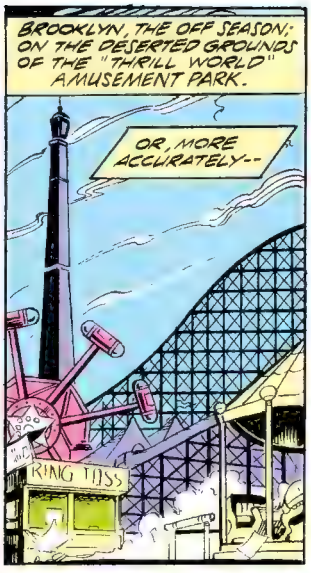
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

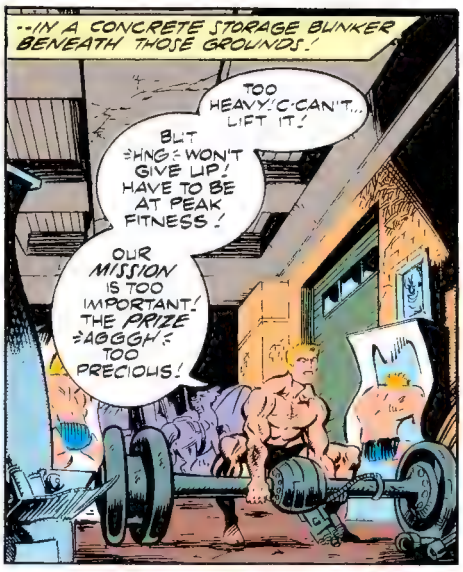
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

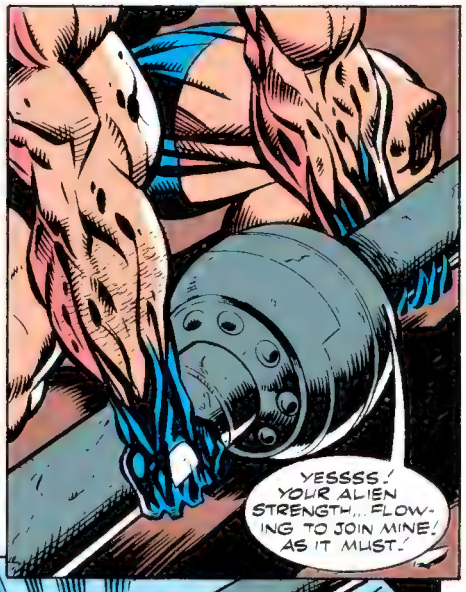
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN!

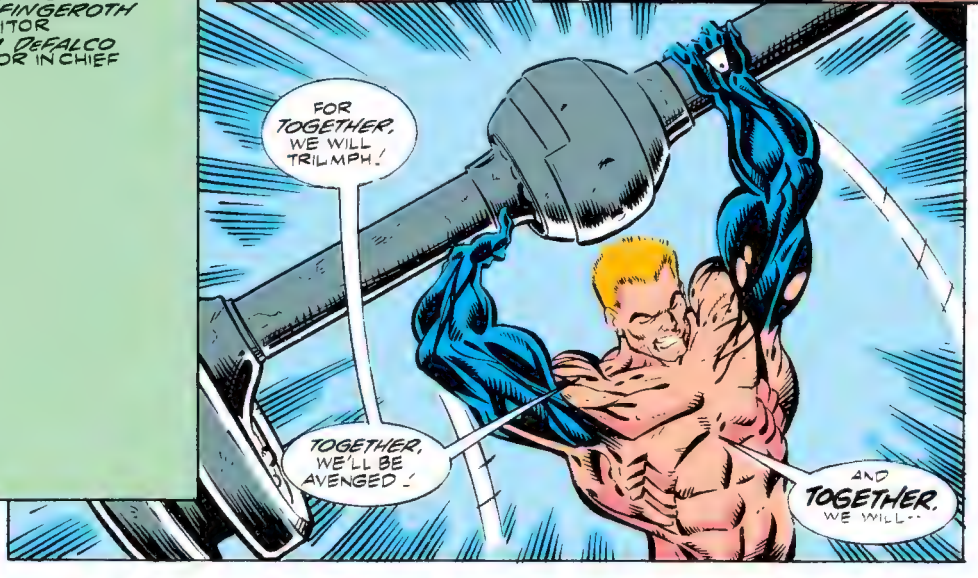
MURDER ON PARADE

DAVID MICHELINIE
WRITER
MARK BAGLEY
PENCILER
RANDY EMBERLIN
INKER
STEVE DUTRO
LETTERER
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF




--IN A CONCRETE STORAGE BUNKER BENEATH THOSE GROUNDS.
TOO HEAVY. C-CAN'T... LIFT IT.
BUT =HNG= WON'T GIVE UP! HAVE TO BE AT PEAK FITNESS!
OUR MISSION IS TOO IMPORTANT! THE PRIZE =AGGGH= TOO PRECIOUS!





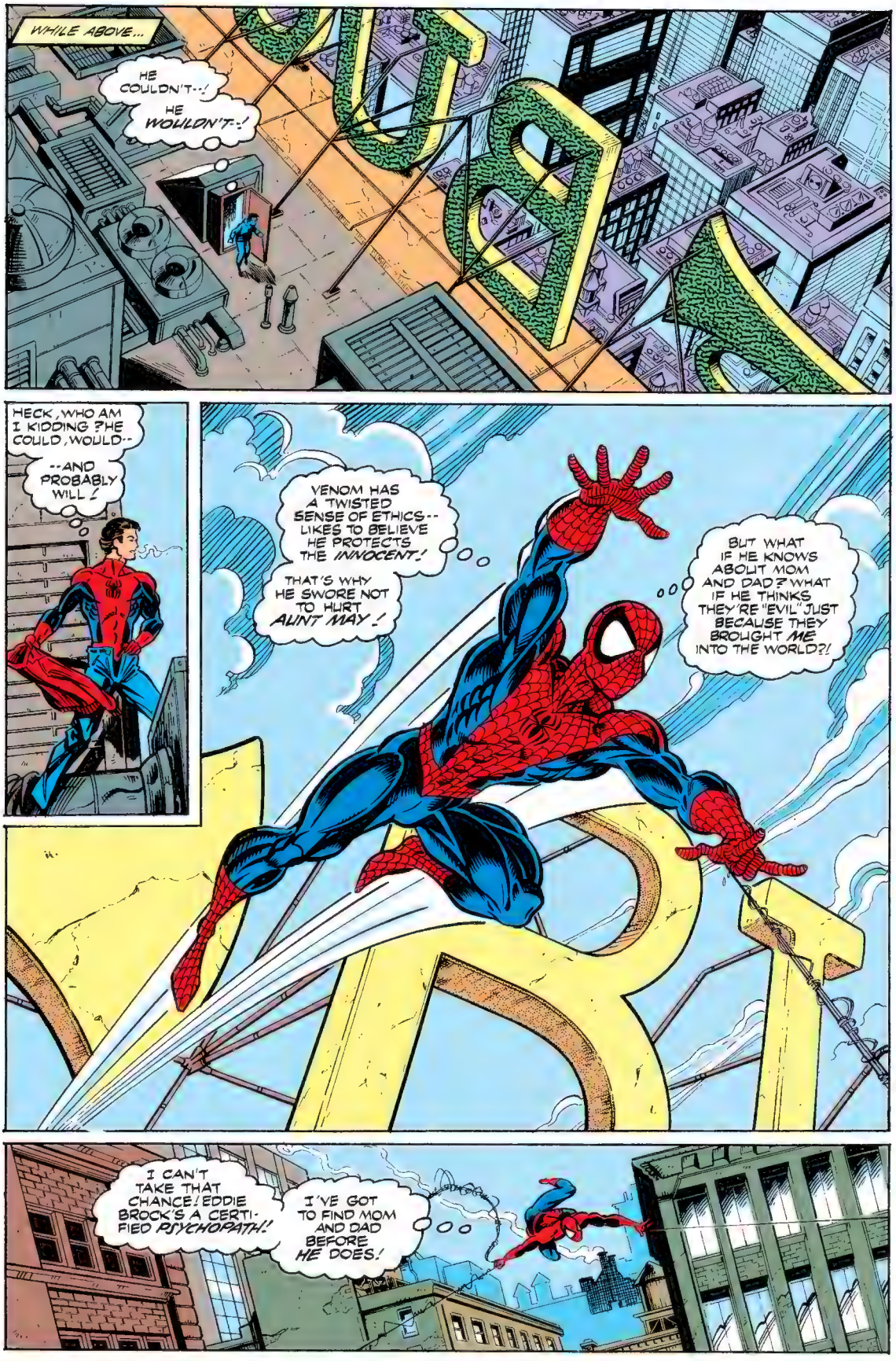
-KILL SPIDER-MAN!

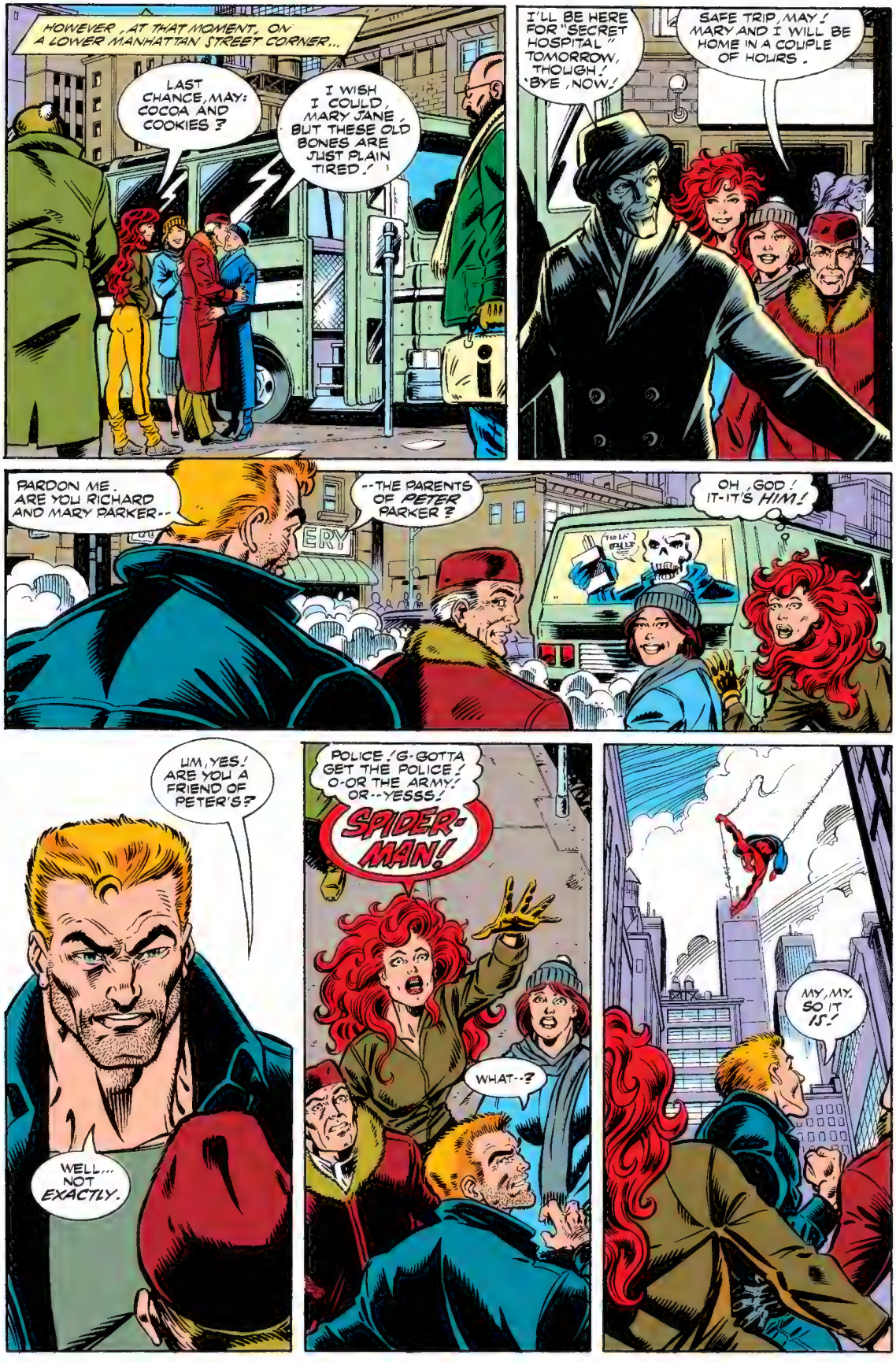
AFTER ALL, IT WAS SPIDER-MAN WHO DESTROYED MY CAREER AS JOURNALIST EDDIE BROCK!
IT WAS SPIDER-MAN WHO REJECTED YOU AS THE SYMBIOTIC "COSTUME" THAT WANTED TO MELD WITH HIM!
AND IT WAS HATRED FOR SPIDER-MAN THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER AS VENOM! HOW SHALL WE THANK THE WEB-SLINGER?
PERHAPS WE COULD KISS HIS STILL-BEATING HEART--
BUT,,, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE NOW.
THE STARTLING REVELATION THAT GAVE US CAUSE TO ESCAPE OUR RECENT CONFINEMENT!*
DAILY BUGLE
*LAST ISSUE.--DANNY
--JUST BEFORE WE DEVOUR IT!
PETER PARKER-- THE DEVIL WHO IS SPIDER-MAN--HAS RECENTLY FOUND PARENTS HE ONCE THOUGHT DEAD!
AND THAT IS A REUNION THAT CANNOT-- MUST NOT-- CONTINUE!

CENTRAL PARK.
SON! BE CAREFUL!
OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT PETER, DAD. I THINK HE'S GOT THE HANG OF IT.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, MARY JANE--
--THE BOY'S BALANCE IS DOWNRIGHT UNCANNY!
UH-OH! LETTING MY SPIDER-MAN ABILITIES SHOW TOO MUCH. BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
WHOOP!
GUESS I'M JUST HUMAN AFTER ALL!
OUCH!
I KNOW YOU WANT TO GET CLOSE TO YOUR PARENTS, SWEETHEART, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD!
JUST LOOK IN THEIR EYES--
--THEY LOVE YOU!
I THINK WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY. BEING IN RUSSIAN PRISONS FOR TWENTY YEARS DOESN'T DO WONDERS FOR ONE'S STAMINA!
YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO TRY, MAY?
ME?! I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE TRYING TO BALANCE THE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET!

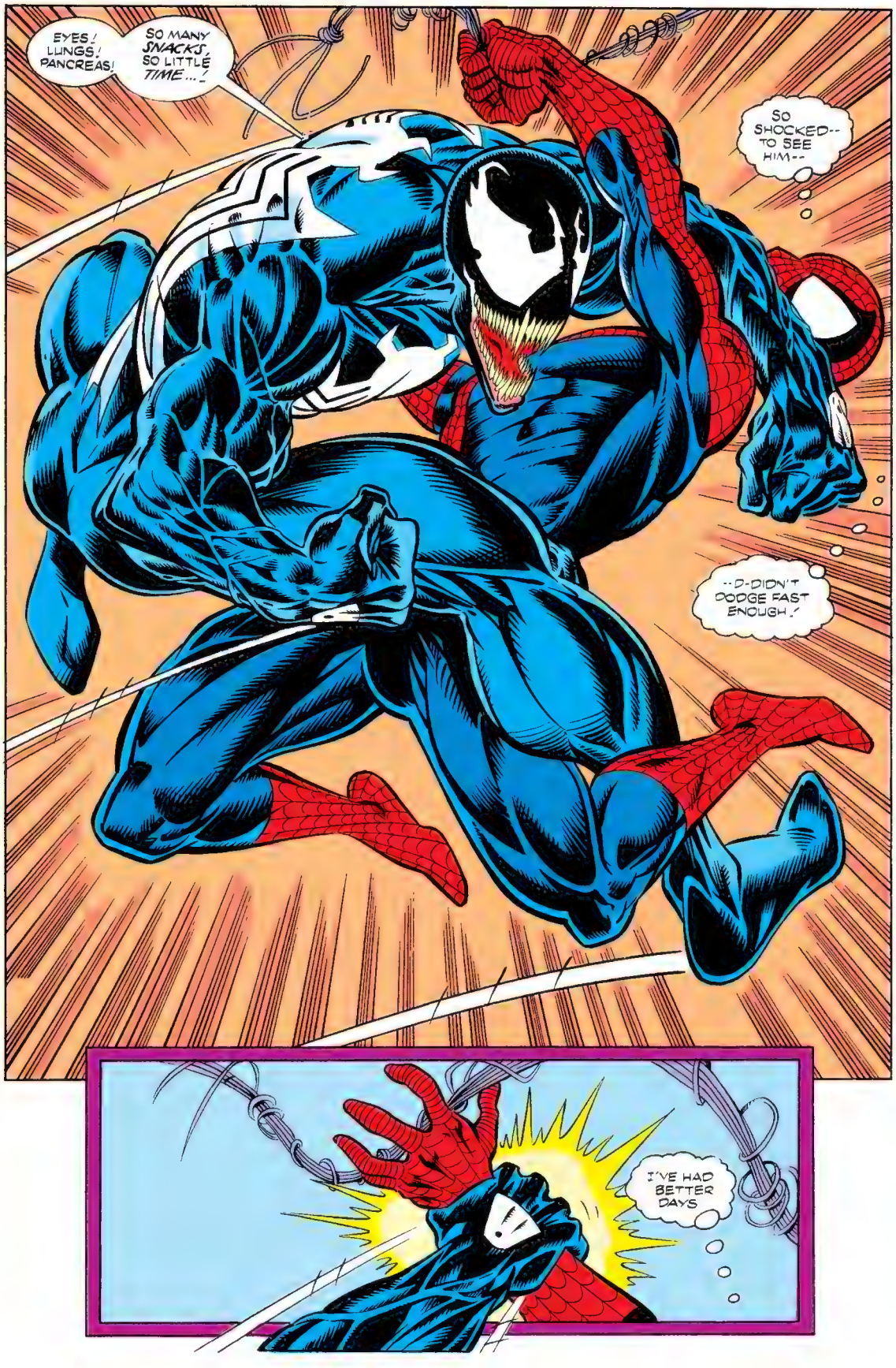
I'M JUST GLAD YOU CAME ALONG, AUNT MAY--EVEN AS AN OBSERVER!
ME, TOO, DEAR. NOW THAT WE'RE A FAMILY AGAIN, WE'LL HAVE TO DO LOTS OF THINGS TOGETHER!
THAT'S A PROMISE--RIGHT, SON?
RIGHT, DAD!
SAY, THERE'S A HOT PRETZEL STAND! HOW 'BOUT IT? MY TREAT!
THEN WE CAN ALL GO BACK TO SOHO FOR HOT CHOCOLATE!
WISH I COULD, FOLKS, BUT I'VE GOT A CLASS TO CATCH! AND THEN I HAVE TO DROP BY THE DAILY BUGLE.
I'LL SEE THAT MAY GETS HOME.
MAYBE WE CAN HAVE LUNCH AND WATCH MJ'S SOAP OPERA TOMORROW!
"SECRET HOSPITAL," ONE O'CLOCK, OUR PLACE!
WAS HAVING TOO MUCH FUN... STAYED TOO LONG!
CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON TRAFFIC!
I'LL HAVE TO GET TO THE UNIVERSITY THE SPIDEY WAY!
UM, I DON'T WANT TO BE A NAG, MARY JANE, BUT... DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT SMOKING CAN DO TO YOUR HEALTH?
I KNOW, MOM, AND I'M GOING TO QUIT AGAIN SOON.
I'VE JUST BEEN UNDER A LOT OF... STRESS LATELY.

THE ADVANCED PHYSICS CLASS PASSES SWIFTLY. AND LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF NEW YORK'S FOREMOST NEWSPAPER...
TALK ABOUT A DROUGHT!
DAILY BUGLE
I HAVEN'T HAD A PHOTO ASSIGNMENT IN OVER A WEEK! I WAS HOPING OUR ESTEEMED PUBLISHER MIGHT TOSS ME A BONE, BUT--
--I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE GOT ANY LEADS YOU COULD SHARE, JOY?
FRESH OUT, PETER.
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME SNAPS OF VENOM, PETE? YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT THAT.
CAN'T, BEN. VENOM'S IN POLICE CUSTODY.
Y'KNOW, FOR A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER, YOU'RE NOT VERY CURRENT. VENOM ESCAPED LAST NIGHT.
WHAT? HHOW?
ALL RIGHT, PARKER, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOU--
--HEY! WHERE'S HE GOING?
TO GET SOME SHOTS OF VENOM, I GUESS.
GOOD LUCK.
LUCK, MY EYE!
IN THE NEWS GAME, IT'S BOLDNESS AND INSPIRATION THAT GET THE JOB DONE!
AND I'VE JUST HAD AN IDEA THAT COULD NET THE BUGLE ITS BIGGEST EXCLUSIVE IN YEARS!
GET ME THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY. PRIVATE LINE!
FAST!


WHILE ABOVE...
HE COULDN'T--!
HE WOULDN'T--!
HECK, WHO AM I KIDDING? HE COULD, WOULD--
--AND PROBABLY WILL!
VENOM HAS A TWISTED SENSE OF ETHICS-- LIKES TO BELIEVE HE PROTECTS THE INNOCENT!
THAT'S WHY HE SWORE NOT TO HURT AUNT MAY!
BUT WHAT IF HE KNOWS ABOUT MOM AND DAD? WHAT IF HE THINKS THEY'RE "EVIL" JUST BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT ME INTO THE WORLD?!
I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE! EDDIE BROCK'S A CERTIFIED PSYCHOPATH!
I'VE GOT TO FIND MOM AND DAD BEFORE HE DOES!


HOWEVER, AT THAT MOMENT, ON A LOWER MANHATTAN STREET CORNER...
LAST CHANCE, MAY: COCOA AND COOKIES?
I WISH I COULD, MARY JANE, BUT THESE OLD BONES ARE JUST PLAIN TIRED.
I'LL BE HERE FOR "SECRET HOSPITAL" TOMORROW, THOUGH. 'BYE, NOW.
SAFE TRIP, MAY. MARY AND I WILL BE HOME IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.
PARDON ME. ARE YOU RICHARD AND MARY PARKER--
--THE PARENTS OF PETER PARKER?
OH, GOD! IT-IT'S HIM!
UM, YES! ARE YOU A FRIEND OF PETER'S?
WELL... NOT EXACTLY.
POLICE! G-GOTTA GET THE POLICE! O-OR THE ARMY! OR--YESSS!
SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT--?
MY, MY. SO IT IS.

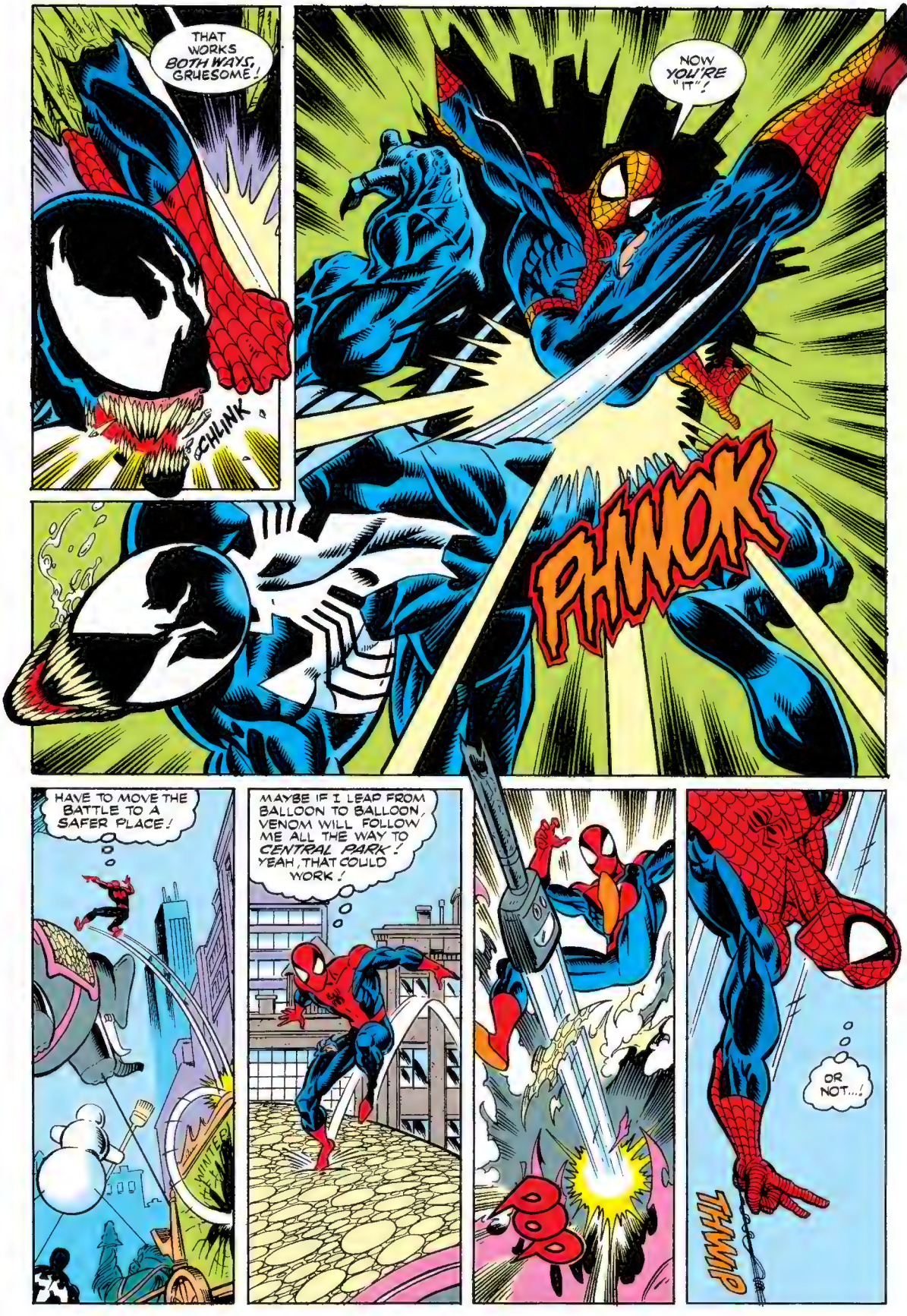
BUT, DON'T WORRY, MR. AND MRS. PARKER...
OH, MY LORD--!
...WE'LL SAVE YOU!
SPEED LIMIT 35 MPH
OH, NO! HE'S FOUND THEM! BUT... WAIT! HE'S COMING AFTER ME?
THANK HEAVEN!
I DON'T BELIEVE I JUST THOUGHT THAT.

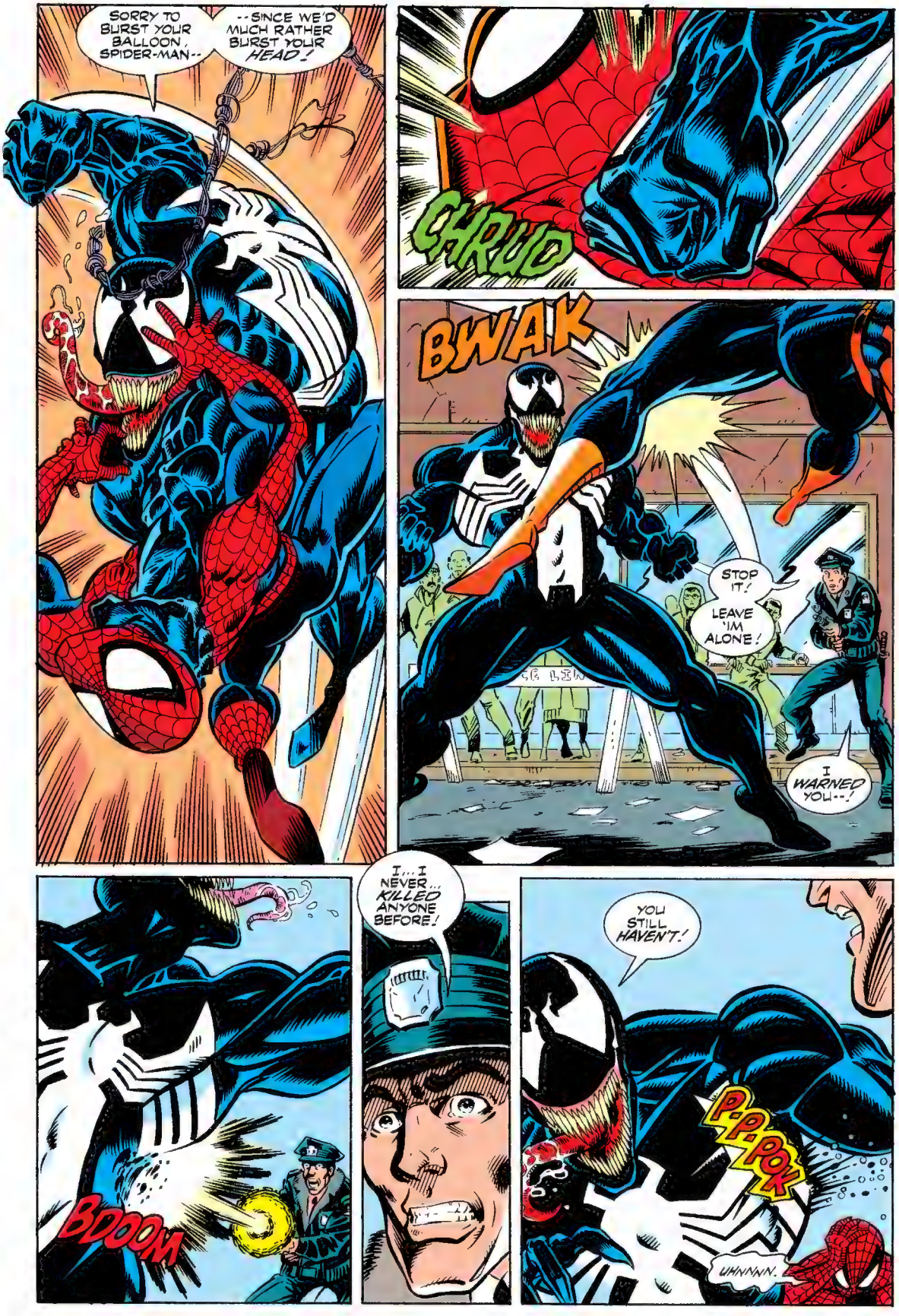

EYES! LUNGS! PANCREAS!
SO MANY SNACKS, SO LITTLE TIME...!
SO SHOCKED-- TO SEE HIM--
--D-DIDN'T DODGE FAST ENOUGH!
I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS

OOOH, LOOK!
THERE'S A SPIDER ON THE WALL!
KA-RESH
OH, ALL RIGHT:
"WAS!"
THE LIVER? GOOD CHOICE! WE'LL HAVE IT FIRST!
WITH A NICE CHIANTI...!
SHLLUP

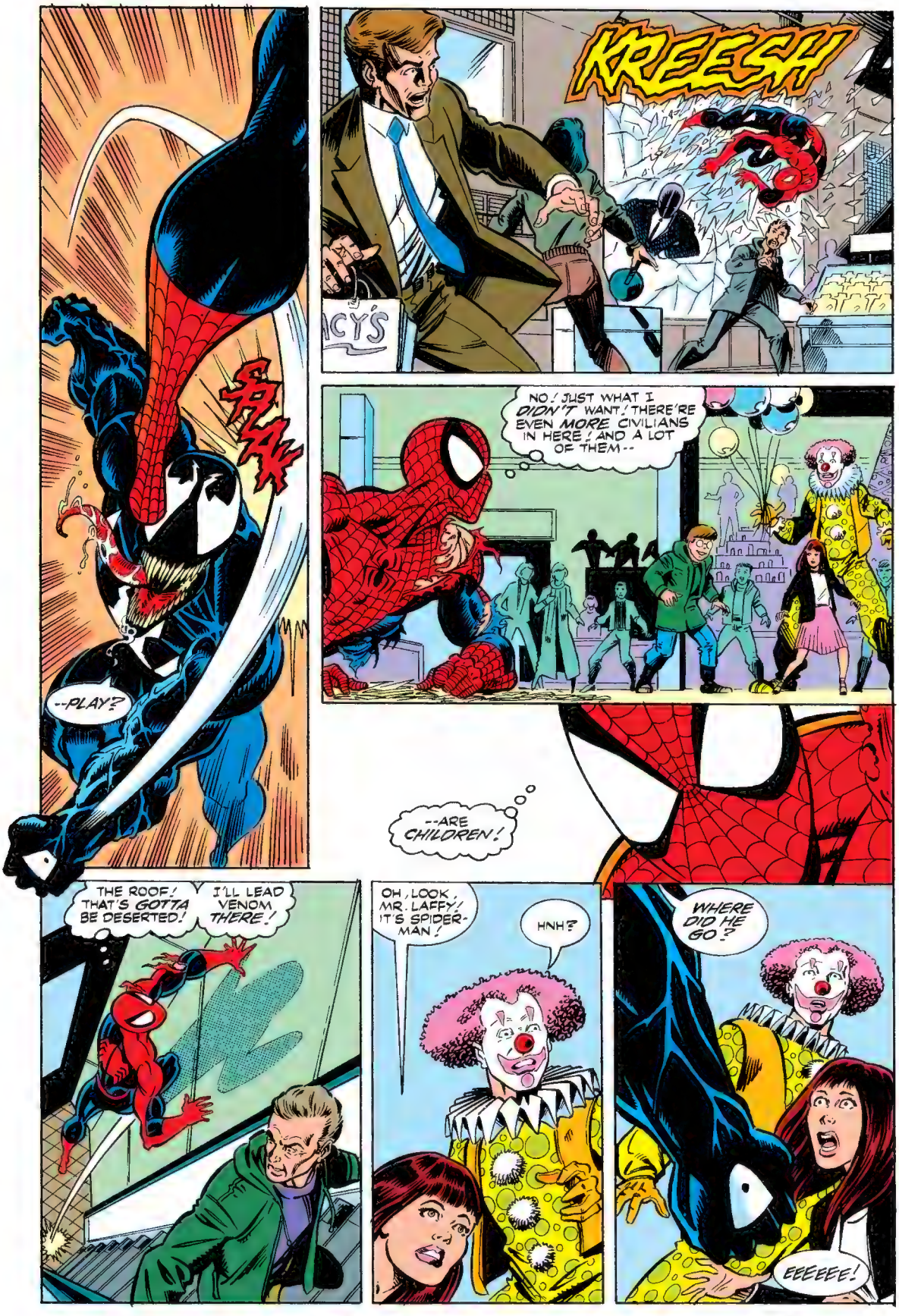
WHANK
OONF
HYUNG
AW, GEEZ! HAVE I DIED--
--AND GONE TO DISNEY-WORLD?!
NO! LANDED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ANNUAL WINTERFEST PARADE! AND IF I'M HERE, THEN SO IS--
MACY'S
--VENOM!
HEY, FELLA! YOU GOT A UNION CARD?

WHUNCH
HOLIDAY CROWD ALL AROUND! SOMEONE COULD GET HURT!
HAVE TO TAKE VENOM DOWN!
CHOK
WHOM
YUP, I WAS RIGHT!
SOMEONE GOT HURT!
OW!
INTERFES
PASH
PEEKABOO! WE SEE YOU!


THAT WORKS BOTH WAYS, GRUESOME!
CHLINK
NOW YOU'RE "IT"!
PHWOK
HAVE TO MOVE THE BATTLE TO A SAFER PLACE!
MAYBE IF I LEAP FROM BALLOON TO BALLOON, VENOM WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE WAY TO CENTRAL PARK! YEAH, THAT COULD WORK!
POP
OR NOT...!
THWIP

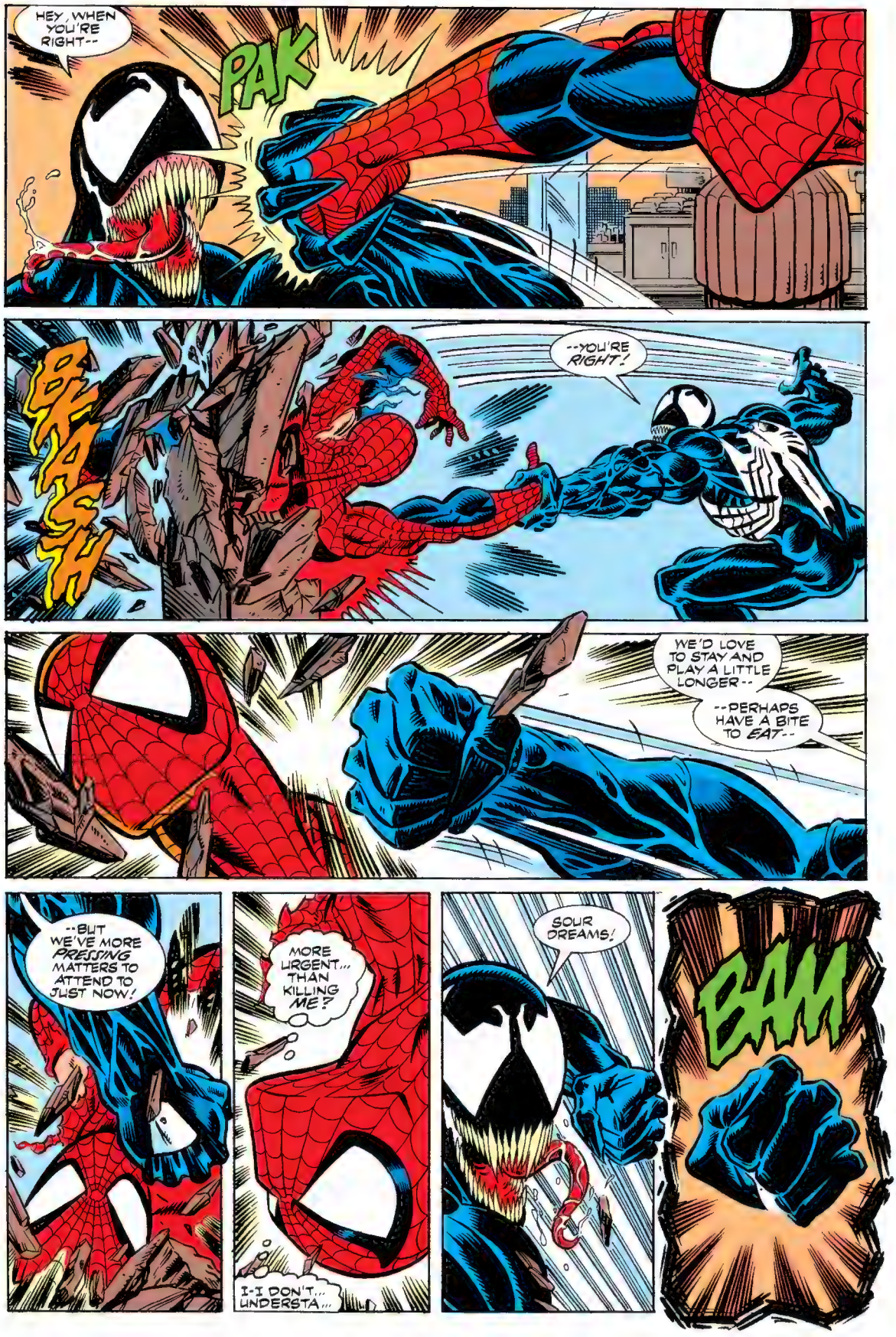

SORRY TO BURST YOUR BALLOON, SPIDER-MAN--
--SINCE WE'D MUCH RATHER BURST YOUR HEAD!
CHUD
BWAK
STOP IT!
LEAVE 'IM ALONE!
I WARNED YOU--!
I... I NEVER... KILLED ANYONE BEFORE!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T!
P-P-POW
UHNNNN.
BDOOM

PLIP
?!?
T-TOO TIGHT! :WHEEZ: C-CAN'T :KOFF: B-BREATHE!
OUT OF THE WAY!
VENOM'S WEBBING IS MADE FROM THE SYMBIOTE'S SUBSTANCE! IT'S JUST AS STRONG AS MY OWN WEBS!
GOTTA PULL... AS HARD AS I...
...CAN!
THANK GOD IT HADN'T STUCK TO HIS FACE!
:GASP:
ALL RIGHT, VENOM, TIME TO--


SHAK
--PLAY?
KREESH
NO! JUST WHAT I DIDN'T WANT! THERE'RE EVEN MORE CIVILIANS IN HERE! AND A LOT OF THEM--
--ARE CHILDREN!
THE ROOF! THAT'S GOTTA BE DESERTED!
I'LL LEAD VENOM THERE!
OH, LOOK, MR. LAFFY! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
HNH?
WHERE DID HE GO?
EEEEEE!

DON'T BE SCARED, LITTLE ONE. WE WON'T LET SPIDER-MAN GET YOU!
DON'T HURT 'EM! PLEASE! TH-THEY'RE JUST KIDS--!
HURT THEM?
SIR, YOU WOUND US! REST ASSURED, WE WOULD NEVER HARM SUCH INNOCENT ANGELS!
I SAID, DON'T TOUCH HER!
MACE?
NOW THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
WHAP
THERE, THERE, CHILD. DID THAT NASTY OLD CLOWN FRIGHTEN YOU?
:SNIFF:
:SN-NIFFLE:
WHAT HAPPENED? HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME! WHAT COULD'VE--
--OH, CRIPES! THAT LITTLE GIRL--!

LET HER GO, VENOM! I'M THE ONE YOU WANT!
THWIP
COME AND GET ME!
PLATCH
SILLY SPIDER...
...THAT TRICK NEVER WORKS ON ME!
SKRIPP
KWHAM
I DON'T NEED TRICKS, VENOM! I'M GOING TO WHIP YOU ONE-ON-ONE!
I'M SICK OF YOU GOING THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE TO GET TO ME!
IT STOPS HERE!
NOW
BWAAK


HEY, WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT--
PAK
BRASH
--YOU'RE RIGHT!
WE'D LOVE TO STAY AND PLAY A LITTLE LONGER--
--PERHAPS HAVE A BITE TO EAT--
--BUT WE'VE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO JUST NOW!
MORE URGENT... THAN KILLING ME?
I-I DON'T... UNDERSTA...
SOUR DREAMS!
BAM

A MOMENT PASSES.
OR A DECADE.
THE BATTERED WEB-SLINGER DOESN'T KNOW.
ALL HE KNOWS AS HE CLAWS HIS WAY THROUGH A THROBBING FOG OF PAIN IS--
SPIDER-SENSE!
--THE NEXT PAIN WON'T BE HIS!
YOW!
CHILL OUT, WEBSLINGER!
HUH? VENOM--WHERE IS HE?
GUY WITH THE GRIN? HE TOOK OFF-- CACKLED SOMETHIN' 'BOUT HURTING YOU EVEN MORE!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HE LET ME LIVE!
BUT WHAT COULD HURT ME MORE THAN KILLING--
--OH, GOD! MOM AND DAD!
I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYONE--
--BUT I SWEAR, IF VENOM SO MUCH AS SCRATCHES THOSE PEOPLE--!

SOHO.
I DON'T KNOW, OFFICERS! I JUST--
VENOM! WHERE IS HE?
PETER! HE'S BEEN HURT!
BUT HE HAS TO KNOW...!
H-HE WAS HERE, SPIDER-MAN, BUT HE'S GONE!
AND HE TOOK MY HUSBAND'S PARENTS--
--WITH HIM!
NO...!
NEXT:
VENOM REVEALS WHAT HE REALLY WANTS--AND IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! DON'T MISS THE SPECIAL GIANT-SIZED CONCLUSION (PLUS SPECIAL FEATURES AND A VERY SPECIAL COVER) ON SALE IN THIRTY DAYS!

MARVEL COMICS
GIANT SIZED 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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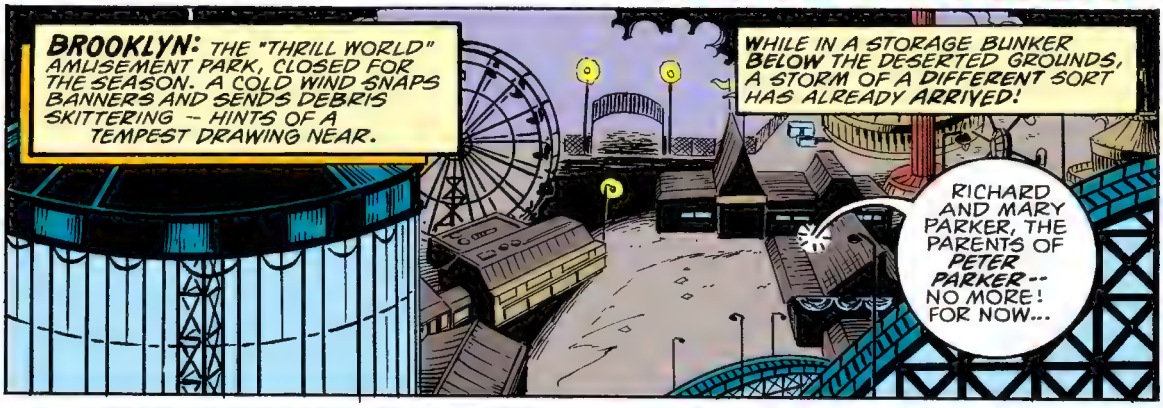
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BAGS + RC 92
SPIDEY vs. VENOM: THE FINAL CONFRONTATION!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

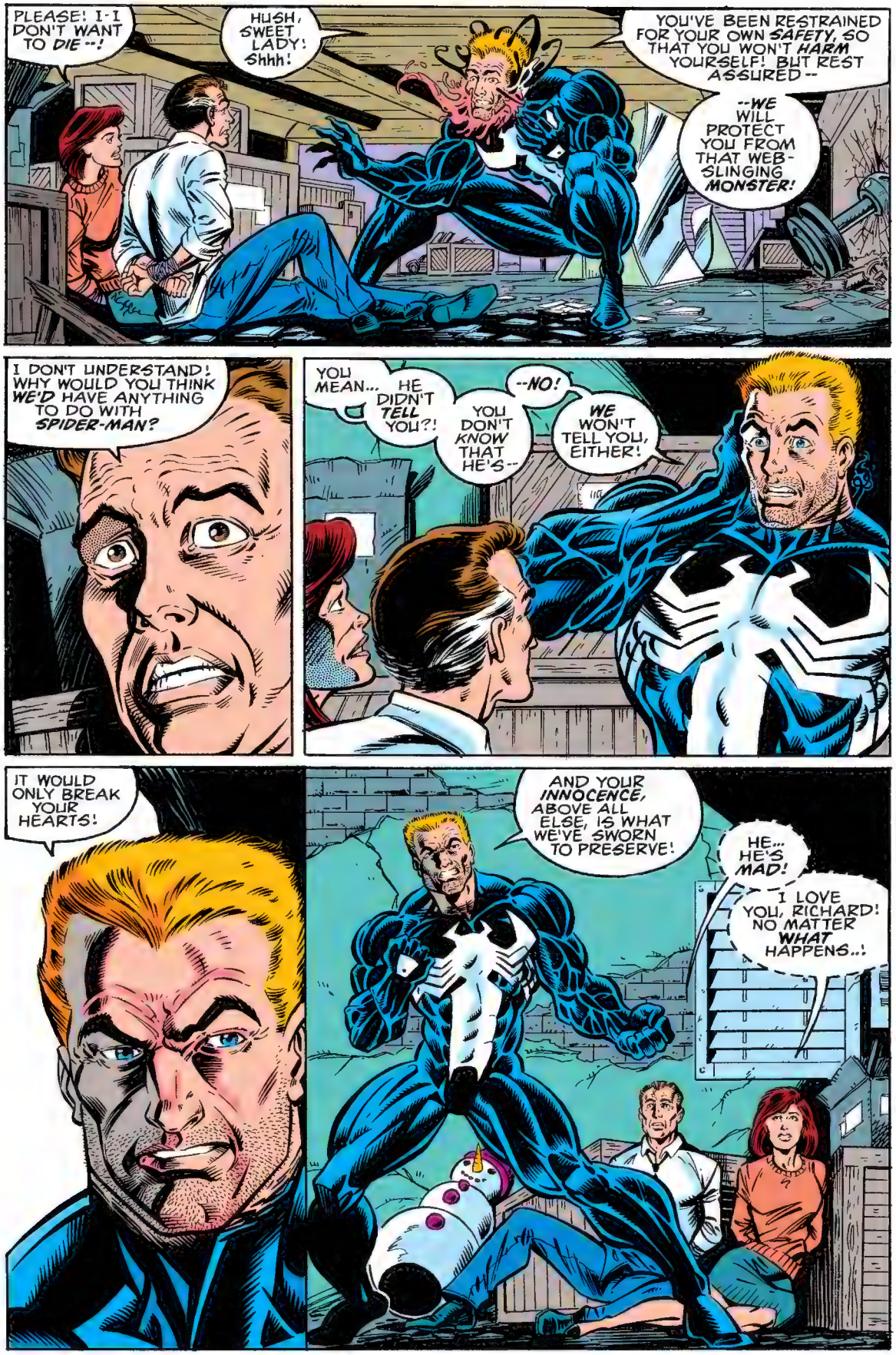

BROOKLYN: THE "THRILL WORLD" AMUSEMENT PARK, CLOSED FOR THE SEASON. A COLD WIND SNAPS BANNERS AND SENDS DEBRIS SKITTERING -- HINTS OF A TEMPEST DRAWING NEAR.
WHILE IN A STORAGE BUNKER **BELOW** THE DESERTED GROUNDS, A STORM OF A **DIFFERENT** SORT HAS ALREADY **ARRIVED!**
RICHARD AND MARY PARKER, THE PARENTS OF *PETER PARKER*-- NO MORE! FOR NOW...

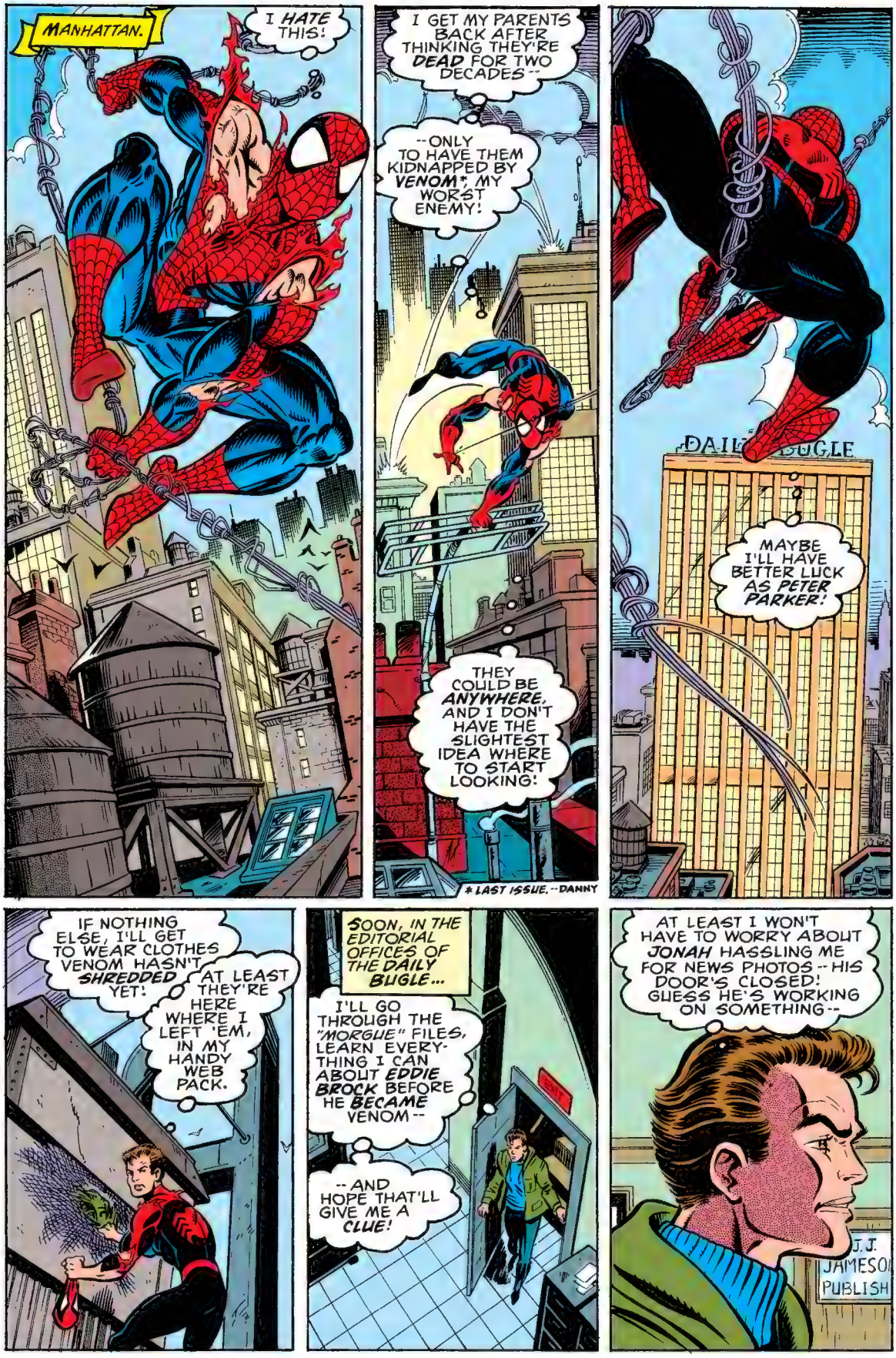
The BRIDE of VENOM

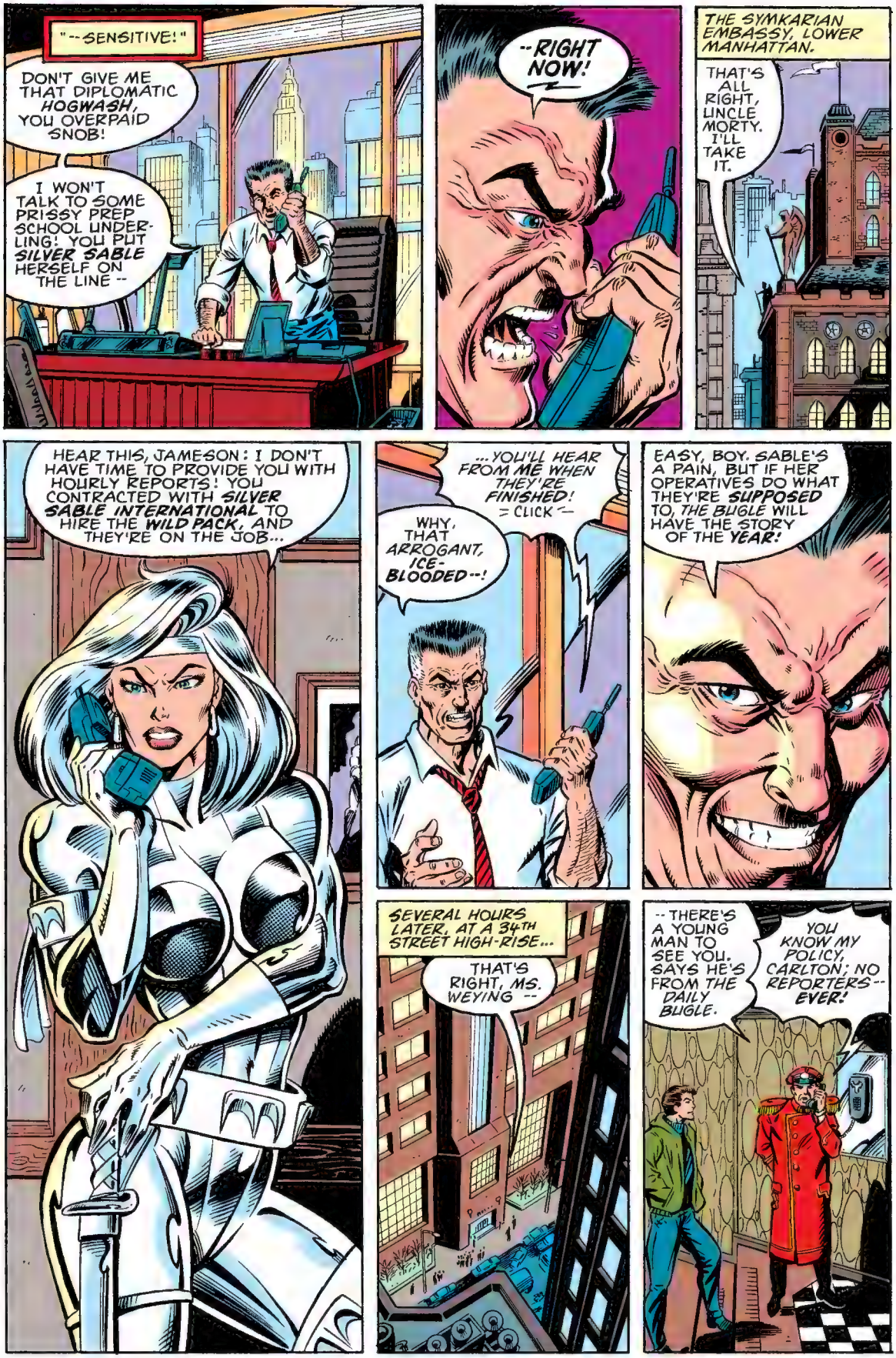
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER & MARK BAGLEY PENCILLER

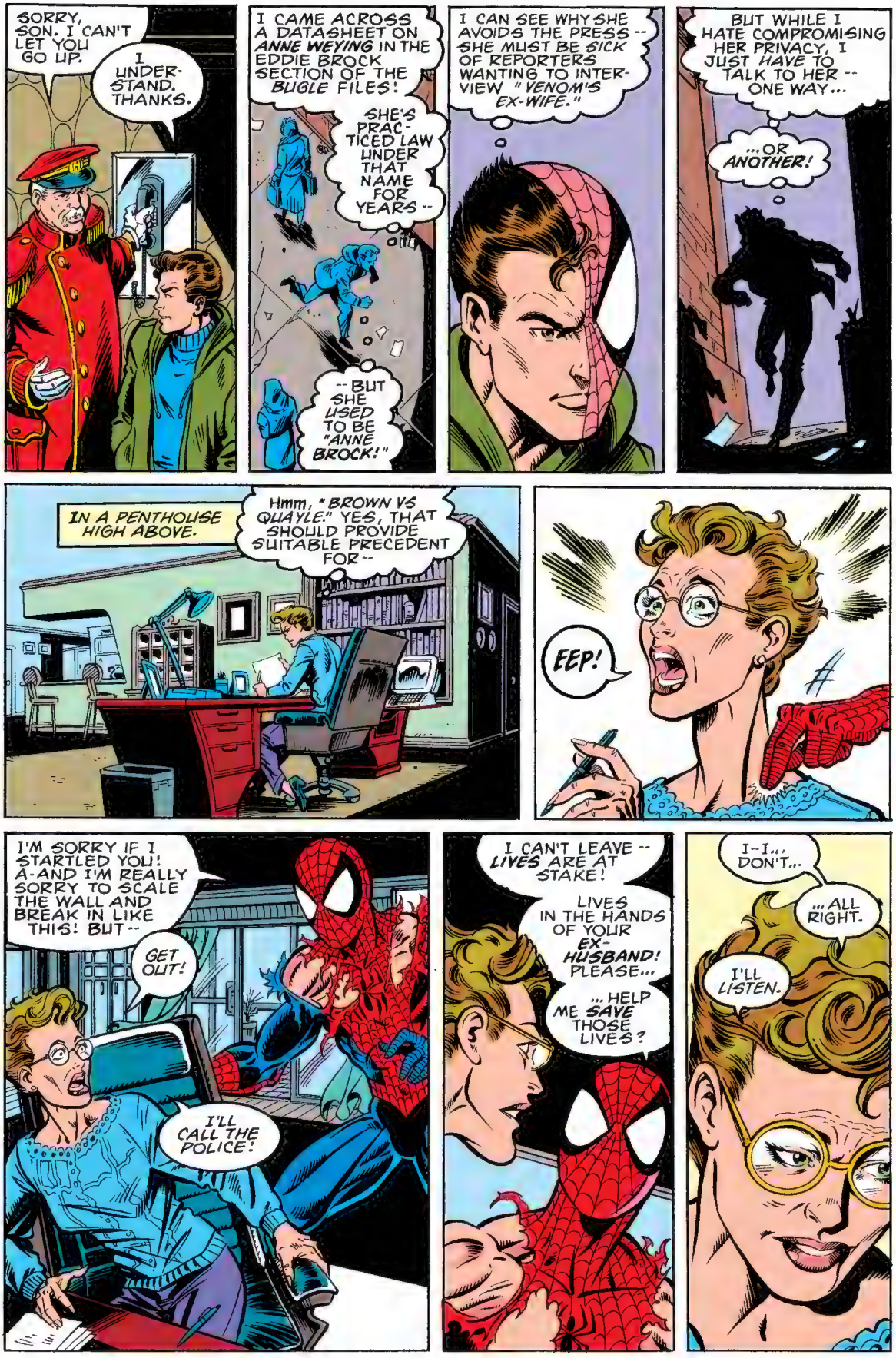
RANDY EMBERLIN INKER & BOB SHAREN COLORIST

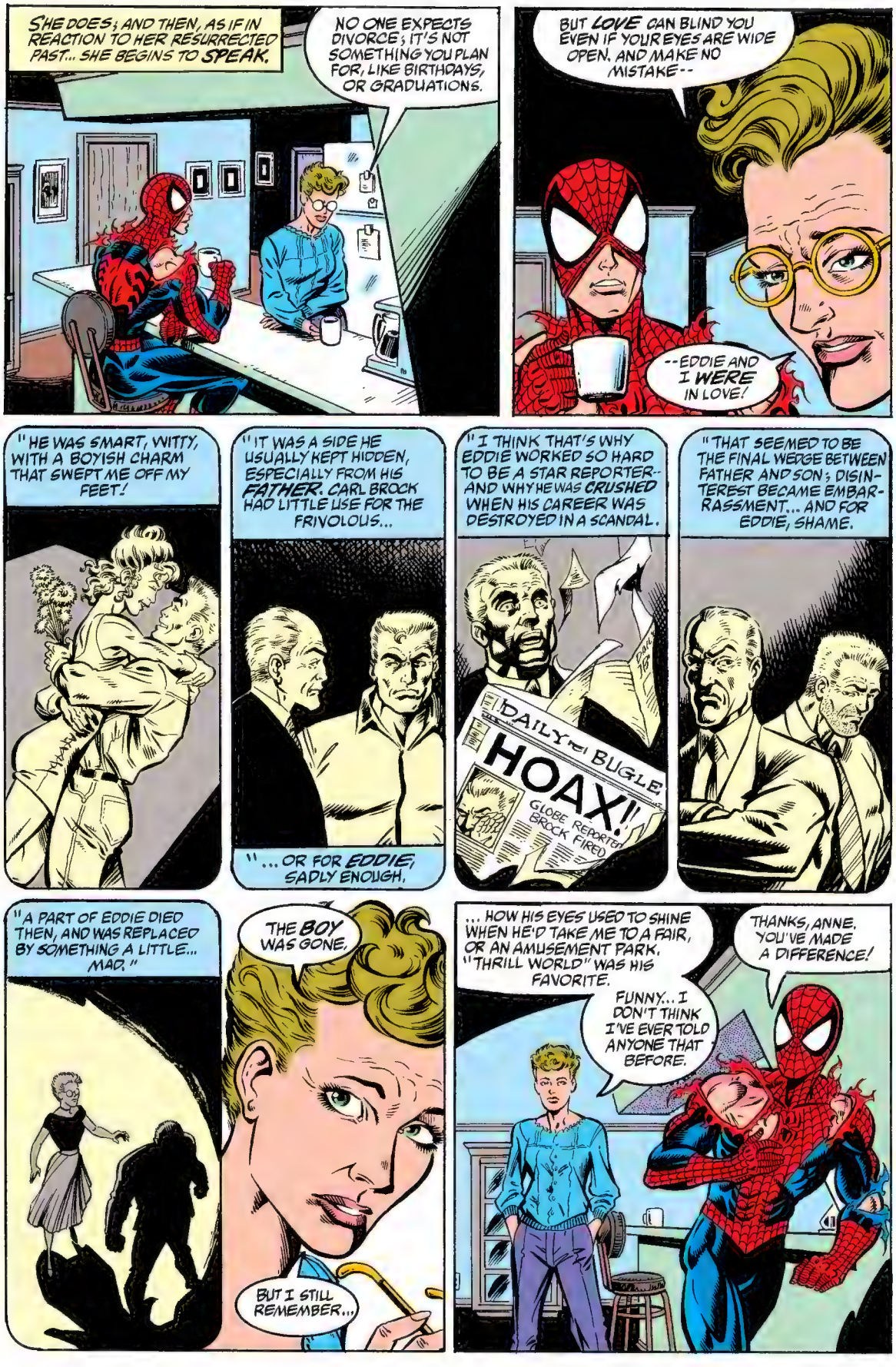
STARKINGS & PARKER LETTERERS | DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

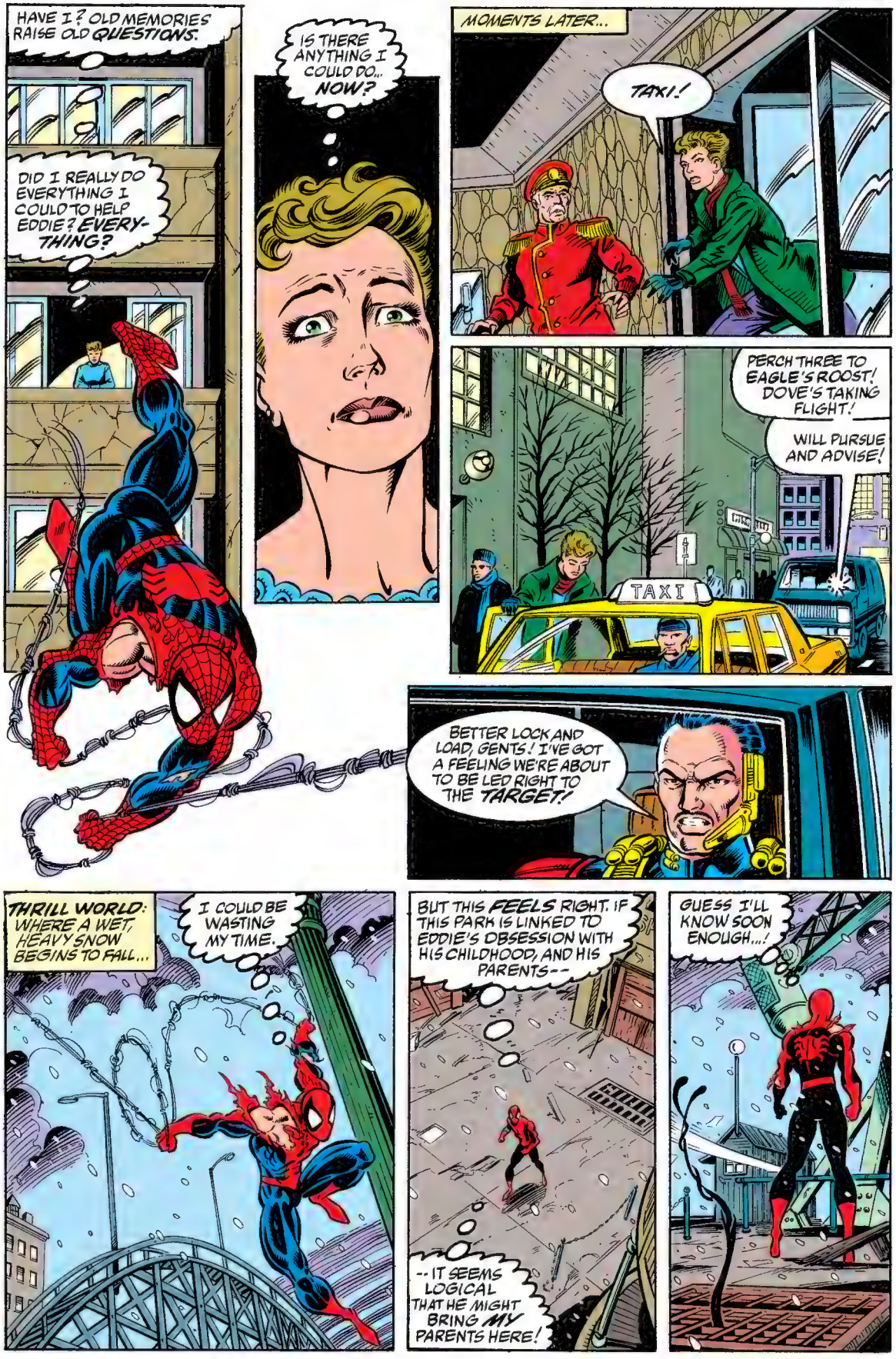

PLEASE! I-I DON'T WANT TO DIE --!
HUSH, SWEET LADY! Shhh!
YOU'VE BEEN RESTRAINED FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, SO THAT YOU WON'T HARM YOURSELF! BUT REST ASSURED --
--WE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THAT WEB-SLINGING MONSTER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY WOULD YOU THINK WE'D HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SPIDER-MAN?
YOU MEAN... HE DIDN'T TELL YOU?!
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S --
--NO!
WE WON'T TELL YOU, EITHER!
IT WOULD ONLY BREAK YOUR HEARTS!
AND YOUR INNOCENCE, ABOVE ALL ELSE, IS WHAT WE'VE SWORN TO PRESERVE!
HE... HE'S MAD!
I LOVE YOU, RICHARD! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS..!

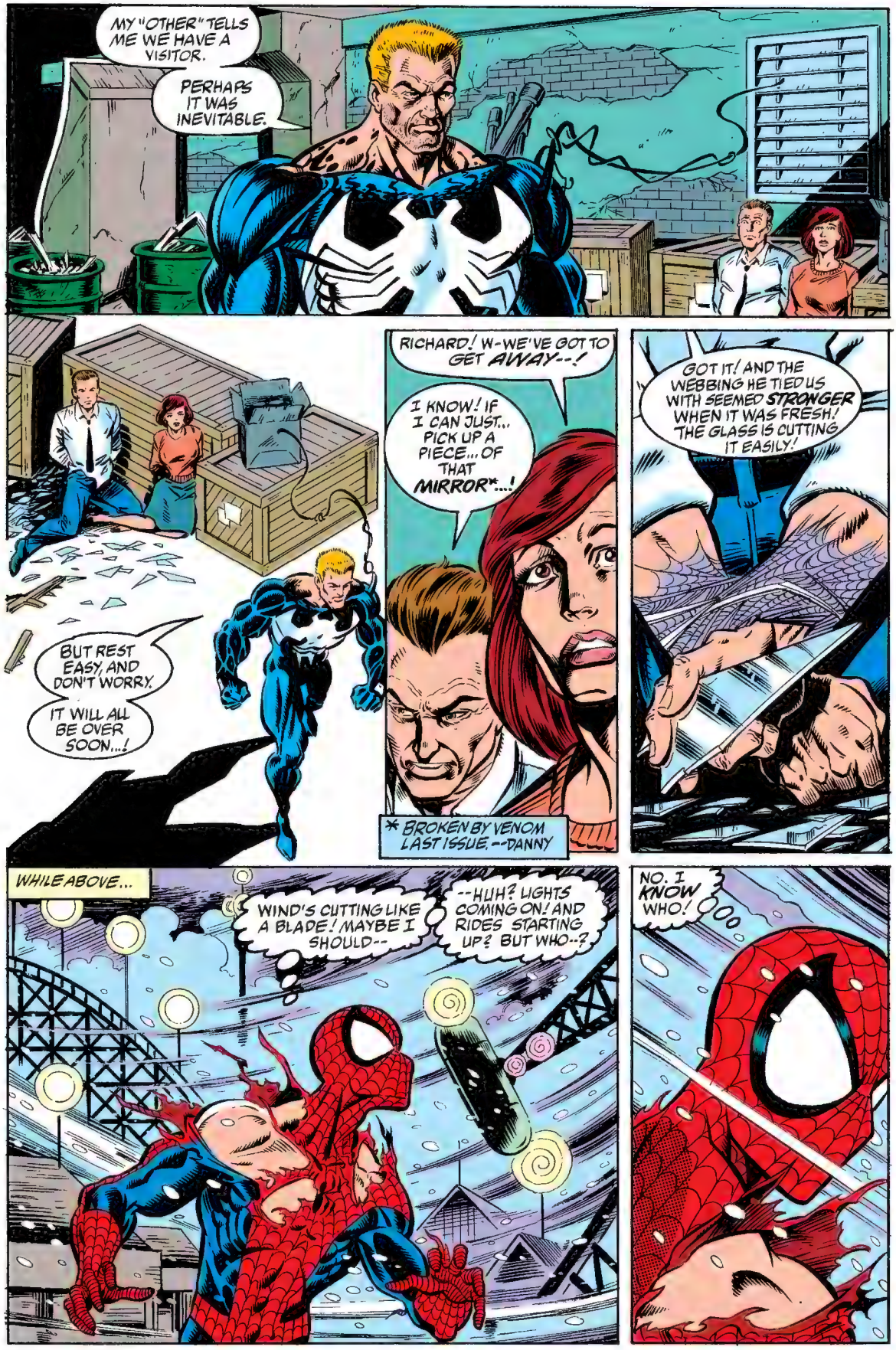

MANHATTAN.
I HATE THIS!
I GET MY PARENTS BACK AFTER THINKING THEY'RE DEAD FOR TWO DECADES--
--ONLY TO HAVE THEM KIDNAPPED BY VENOM*, MY WORST ENEMY!
THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE, AND I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE TO START LOOKING!
* LAST ISSUE.--DANNY
DAILY BUGLE
MAYBE I'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK AS PETER PARKER!
IF NOTHING ELSE, I'LL GET TO WEAR CLOTHES VENOM HASN'T SHREDDED YET!
AT LEAST THEY'RE HERE WHERE I LEFT 'EM, IN MY HANDY WEB PACK.
SOON, IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE...
I'LL GO THROUGH THE "MORGUE" FILES, LEARN EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT EDDIE BROCK BEFORE HE BECAME VENOM--
--AND HOPE THAT'LL GIVE ME A CLUE!
EXIT
AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT JONAH HASSLING ME FOR NEWS PHOTOS--HIS DOOR'S CLOSED! GUESS HE'S WORKING ON SOMETHING--
J.J. JAMESON PUBLISHER

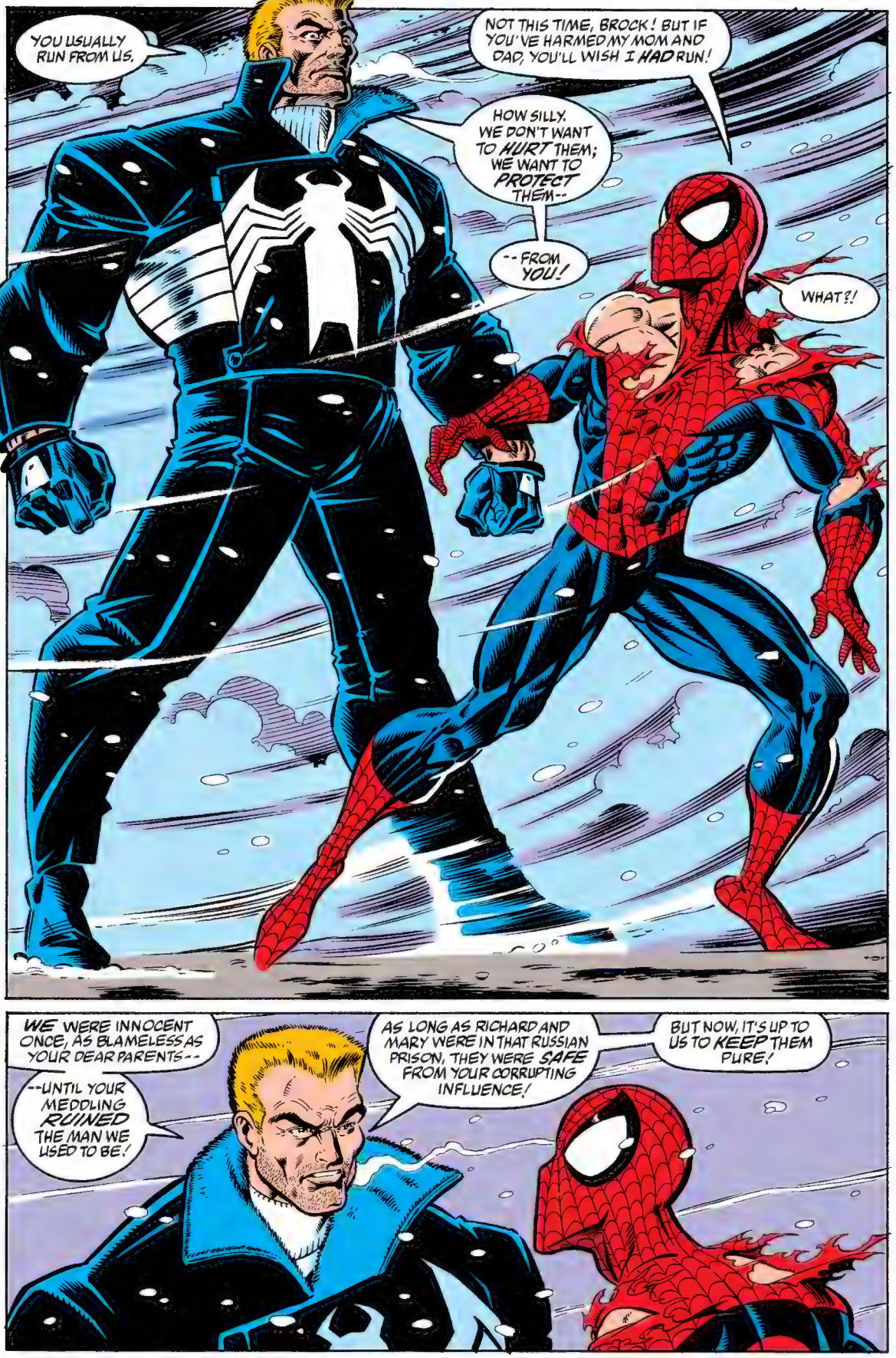

"--SENSITIVE!"
DON'T GIVE ME THAT DIPLOMATIC HOGWASH, YOU OVERPAID SNOB!
I WON'T TALK TO SOME PRISSY PREP SCHOOL UNDER-LING! YOU PUT SILVER SABLE HERSELF ON THE LINE --
--RIGHT NOW!
THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY, LOWER MANHATTAN.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, UNCLE MORTY. I'LL TAKE IT.
HEAR THIS, JAMESON: I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PROVIDE YOU WITH HOURLY REPORTS! YOU CONTRACTED WITH SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL TO HIRE THE WILD PACK, AND THEY'RE ON THE JOB...
...YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME WHEN THEY'RE FINISHED! = CLICK =
WHY, THAT ARROGANT, ICE-BLOODED--!
EASY, BOY. SABLE'S A PAIN, BUT IF HER OPERATIVES DO WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO, THE BUGLE WILL HAVE THE STORY OF THE YEAR!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AT A 34TH STREET HIGH-RISE...
THAT'S RIGHT, MS. WEYING --
-- THERE'S A YOUNG MAN TO SEE YOU. SAYS HE'S FROM THE DAILY BUGLE.
YOU KNOW MY POLICY, CARLTON; NO REPORTERS-- EVER!

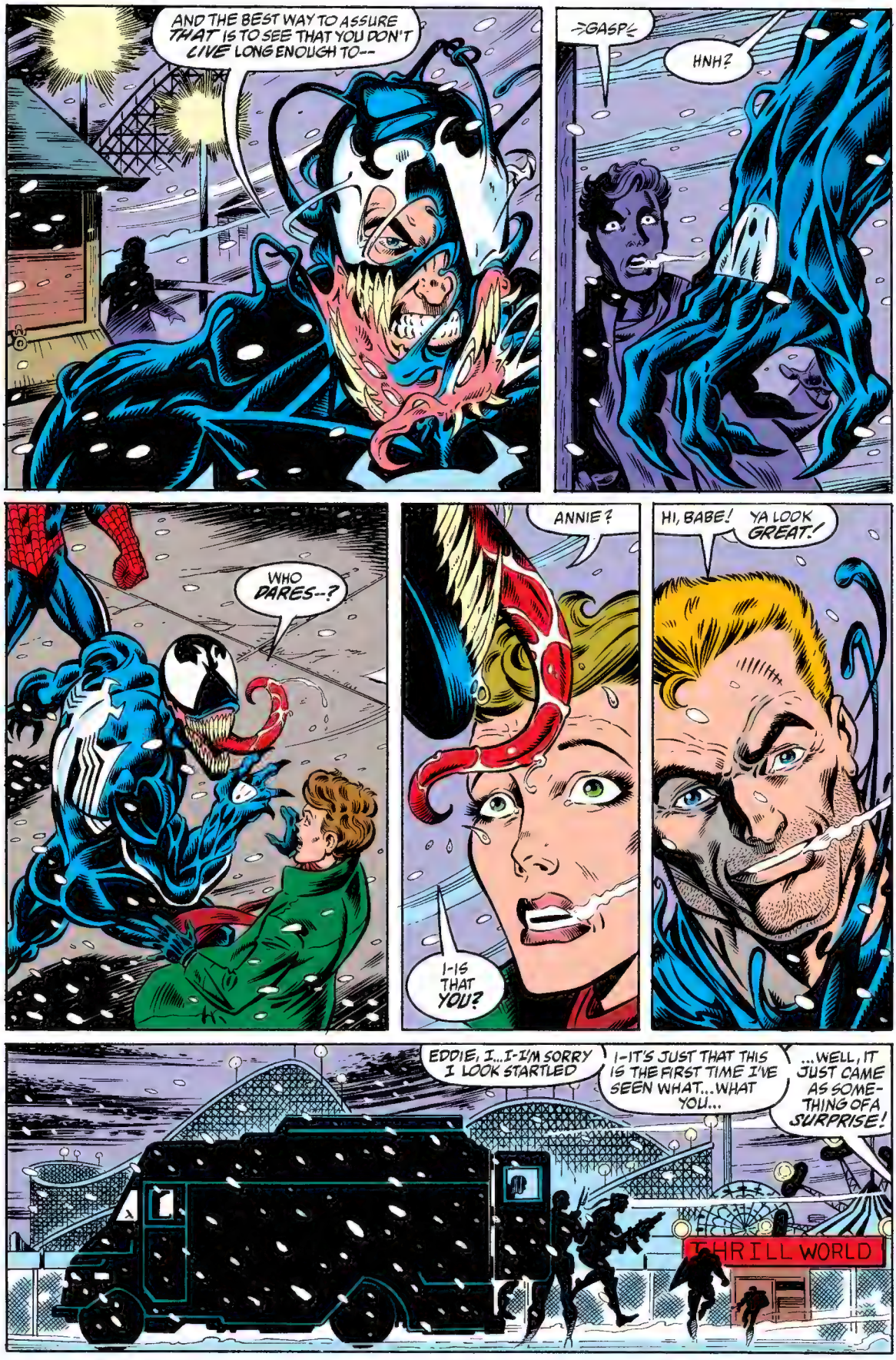

SORRY, SON. I CAN'T LET YOU GO UP.
I UNDERSTAND. THANKS.
I CAME ACROSS A DATASHEET ON ANNE WEYING IN THE EDDIE BROCK SECTION OF THE BUGLE FILES!
SHE'S PRACTICED LAW UNDER THAT NAME FOR YEARS --
-- BUT SHE USED TO BE "ANNE BROCK!"
I CAN SEE WHY SHE AVOIDS THE PRESS -- SHE MUST BE SICK OF REPORTERS WANTING TO INTERVIEW "VENOM'S EX-WIFE."
BUT WHILE I HATE COMPROMISING HER PRIVACY, I JUST HAVE TO TALK TO HER -- ONE WAY...
...OR ANOTHER!
IN A PENTHOUSE HIGH ABOVE.
Hmm, "BROWN VS QUAYLE." YES, THAT SHOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE PRECEDENT FOR --
EEP!
I'M SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU! A-AND I'M REALLY SORRY TO SCALE THE WALL AND BREAK IN LIKE THIS! BUT --
GET OUT!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
I CAN'T LEAVE -- LIVES ARE AT STAKE!
LIVES IN THE HANDS OF YOUR EX-HUSBAND! PLEASE...
...HELP ME SAVE THOSE LIVES?
I--I..., DON'T...
...ALL RIGHT.
I'LL LISTEN.

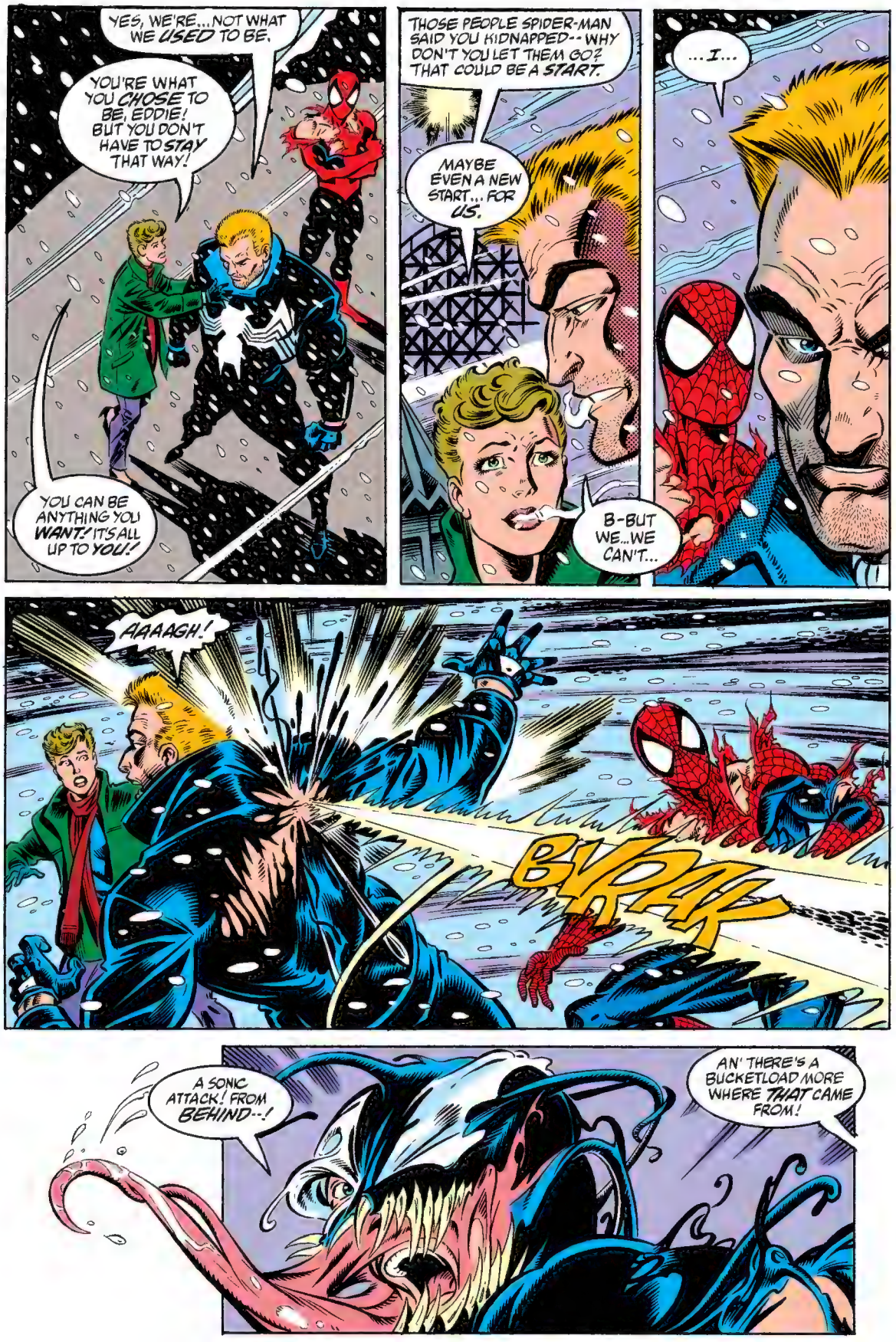

SHE DOES; AND THEN, AS IF IN REACTION TO HER RESURRECTED PAST... SHE BEGINS TO SPEAK.
NO ONE EXPECTS DIVORCE; IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU PLAN FOR, LIKE BIRTHDAYS, OR GRADUATIONS.
BUT LOVE CAN BLIND YOU EVEN IF YOUR EYES ARE WIDE OPEN. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE--
--EDDIE AND I WERE IN LOVE!
"HE WAS SMART, WITTY, WITH A BOYISH CHARM THAT SWEPT ME OFF MY FEET!
"IT WAS A SIDE HE USUALLY KEPT HIDDEN, ESPECIALLY FROM HIS FATHER. CARL BROCK HAD LITTLE USE FOR THE FRIVOLOUS...
"...OR FOR EDDIE, SADLY ENOUGH.
"I THINK THAT'S WHY EDDIE WORKED SO HARD TO BE A STAR REPORTER-- AND WHY HE WAS CRUSHED WHEN HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED IN A SCANDAL.
DAILY BUGLE
HOAX!!
GLOBE REPORTER BROCK FIRED
"THAT SEEMED TO BE THE FINAL WEDGE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON; DISINTEREST BECAME EMBARRASSMENT... AND FOR EDDIE, SHAME.
"A PART OF EDDIE DIED THEN, AND WAS REPLACED BY SOMETHING A LITTLE... MAD."
THE BOY WAS GONE.
BUT I STILL REMEMBER...
... HOW HIS EYES USED TO SHINE WHEN HE'D TAKE ME TO A FAIR, OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK. "THRILL WORLD" WAS HIS FAVORITE.
FUNNY... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER TOLD ANYONE THAT BEFORE.
THANKS, ANNE. YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE!


HAVE I? OLD MEMORIES RAISE OLD QUESTIONS.
DID I REALLY DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO HELP EDDIE? EVERY-THING?
IS THERE ANYTHING I COULD DO... NOW?
MOMENTS LATER...
TAXI!
PERCH THREE TO EAGLE'S ROOST! DOVE'S TAKING FLIGHT!
WILL PURSUE AND ADVISE!
TAXI
BETTER LOCK AND LOAD, GENTS! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE ABOUT TO BE LED RIGHT TO THE TARGET!
THRILL WORLD: WHERE A WET, HEAVY SNOW BEGINS TO FALL...
I COULD BE WASTING MY TIME.
BUT THIS FEELS RIGHT. IF THIS PARK IS LINKED TO EDDIE'S OBSESSION WITH HIS CHILDHOOD, AND HIS PARENTS--
--IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT HE MIGHT BRING MY PARENTS HERE!
GUESS I'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH...!

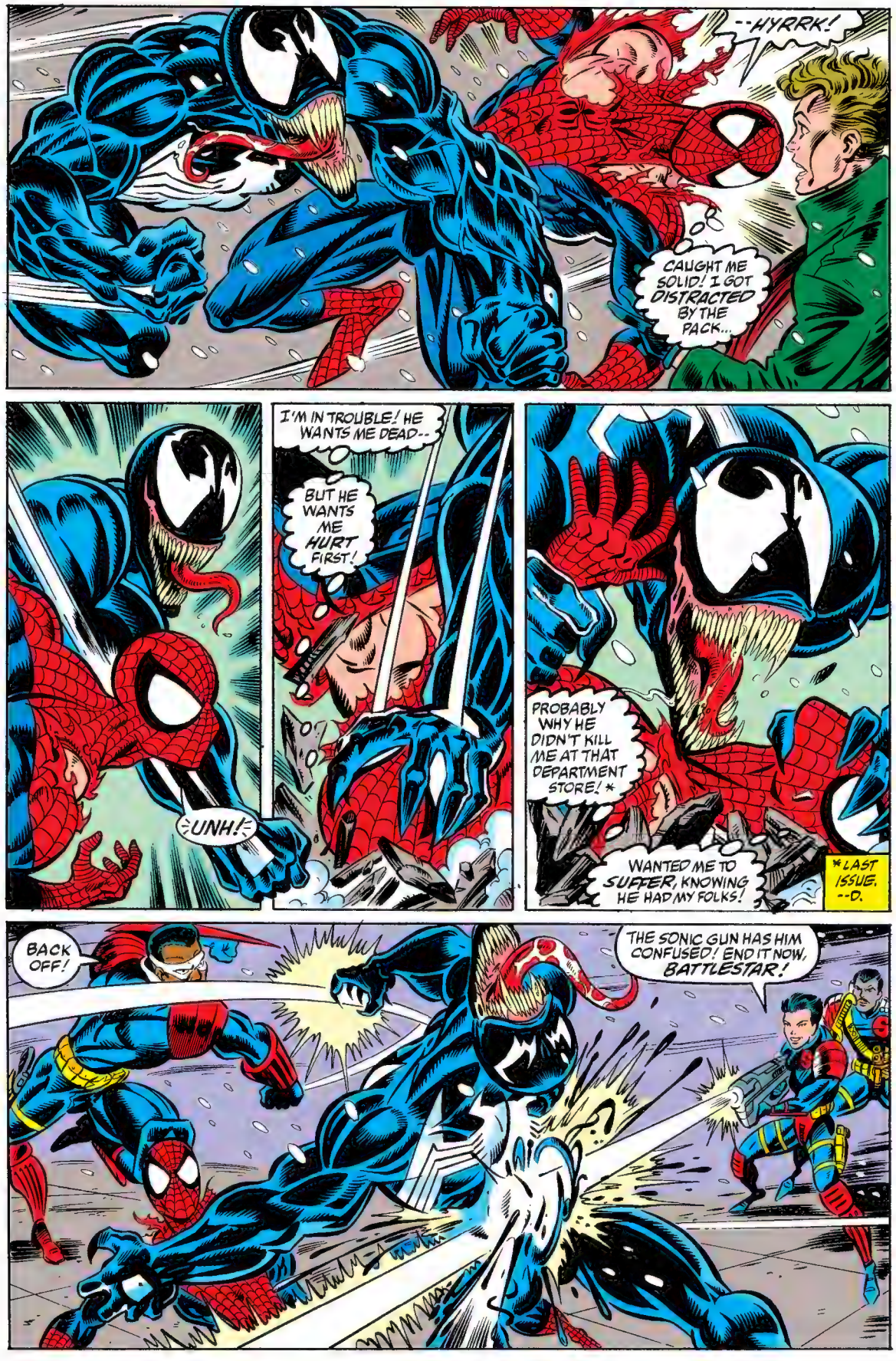

MY "OTHER" TELLS ME WE HAVE A VISITOR.
PERHAPS IT WAS INEVITABLE.
BUT REST EASY, AND DON'T WORRY.
IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON...!
RICHARD! W-WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY--!
I KNOW! IF I CAN JUST... PICK UP A PIECE... OF THAT MIRROR*...!
* BROKEN BY VENOM LAST ISSUE. --DANNY
GOT IT! AND THE WEBBING HE TIED US WITH SEEMED STRONGER WHEN IT WAS FRESH! THE GLASS IS CUTTING IT EASILY!
WHILE ABOVE...
WIND'S CUTTING LIKE A BLADE! MAYBE I SHOULD--
--HUH? LIGHTS COMING ON! AND RIDES STARTING UP? BUT WHO--?
NO. I KNOW WHO!


YOU USUALLY RUN FROM US.
NOT THIS TIME, BROCK! BUT IF YOU'VE HARMED MY MOM AND DAD, YOU'LL WISH I HAD RUN!
HOW SILLY. WE DON'T WANT TO HURT THEM; WE WANT TO PROTECT THEM--
--FROM YOU!
WHAT?!
WE WERE INNOCENT ONCE, AS BLAMELESS AS YOUR DEAR PARENTS--
--UNTIL YOUR MEDDLING RUINED THE MAN WE USED TO BE!
AS LONG AS RICHARD AND MARY WERE IN THAT RUSSIAN PRISON, THEY WERE SAFE FROM YOUR CORRUPTING INFLUENCE!
BUT NOW, IT'S UP TO US TO KEEP THEM PURE!

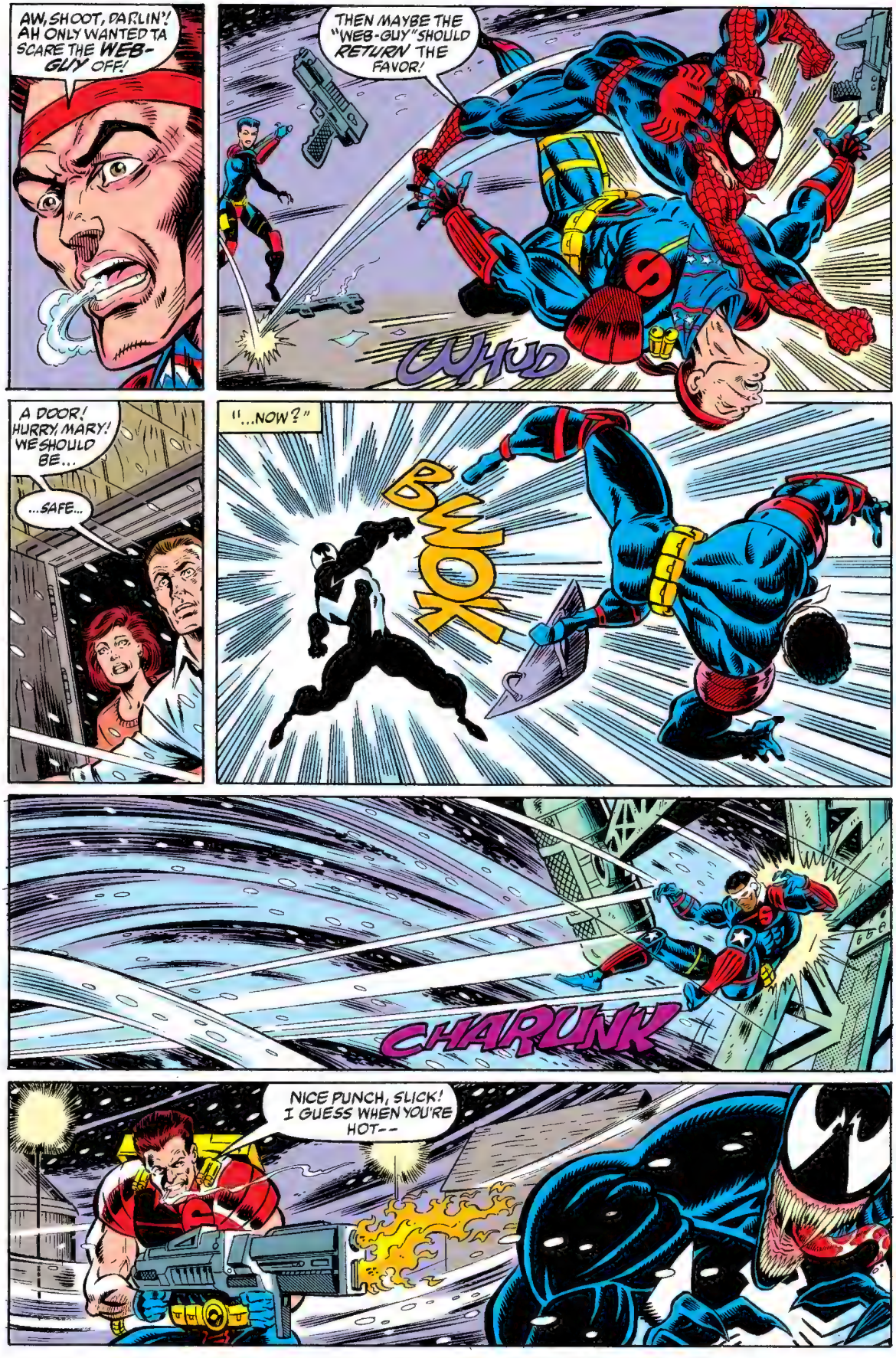

AND THE BEST WAY TO ASSURE THAT IS TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO--
->GASP<-
HNH?
WHO DARES--?
ANNIE?
I-IS THAT YOU?
HI, BABE! YA LOOK GREAT!
EDDIE, I...I-I'M SORRY I LOOK STARTLED
I-IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN WHAT...WHAT YOU...
...WELL, IT JUST CAME AS SOME-THING OF A SURPRISE!
THRILL WORLD


YES, WE'RE... NOT WHAT WE USED TO BE.
YOU'RE WHAT YOU CHOSE TO BE, EDDIE! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY THAT WAY!
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT! IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!
THOSE PEOPLE SPIDER-MAN SAID YOU KIDNAPPED-- WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM GO? THAT COULD BE A START.
MAYBE EVEN A NEW START... FOR US.
B-BUT WE...WE CAN'T...
...I...
AAAAGH!
BRAK
A SONIC ATTACK! FROM BEHIND--!
AN' THERE'S A BUCKETLOAD MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

WE'RE THE WILD PACK, GRUESOME! WE BEEN HIRED TA BRING Y'ALL IN!
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO-!
HOPE YA DON'T COME ALONG QUIETLY...!
YOU DID THIS!
YOU EVEN CORRUPTED ANNIE, MADE HER TRICK US INTO LETTING OUR GUARD DOWN!
WE'LL SUCK THE MARROW FROM YOUR TINIEST BONES--!
HEY, I D-DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT--

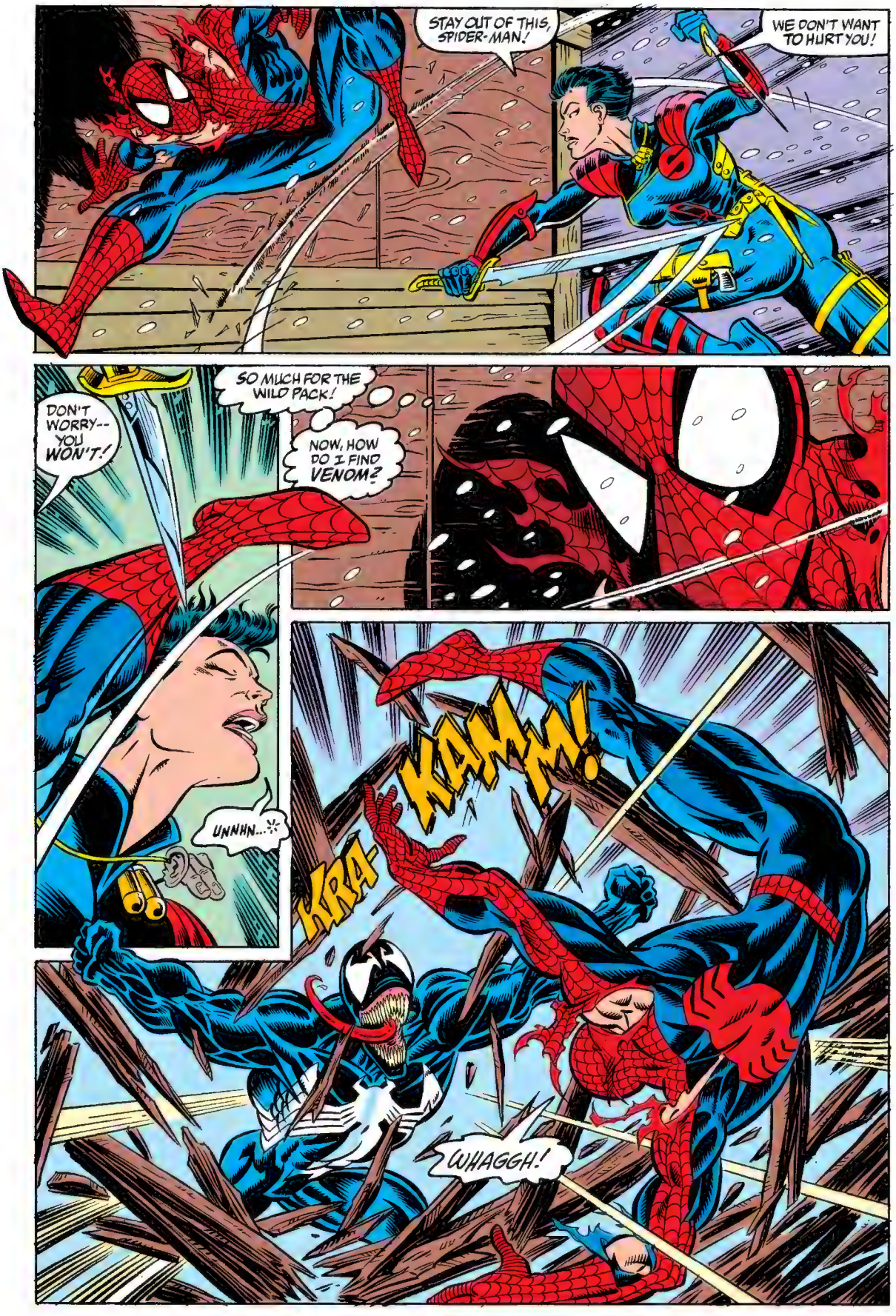

--HYRRK!
CAUGHT ME SOLID! I GOT DISTRACTED BY THE PACK...
I'M IN TROUBLE! HE WANTS ME DEAD--
BUT HE WANTS ME HURT FIRST!
-UNH!-
PROBABLY WHY HE DIDN'T KILL ME AT THAT DEPARTMENT STORE! *
WANTED ME TO SUFFER, KNOWING HE HAD MY FOLKS!
* LAST ISSUE. --D.
BACK OFF!
THE SONIC GUN HAS HIM CONFUSED! END IT NOW, BATTLESTAR!

OH, DEAR! IS THIS WHERE I SAY "OUCH"?
BATTLESTAR! MOVE! YOU'RE IN MY LINE OF FIRE!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU STOP FIRING AND TELL ME WHAT THE HECK THIS IS ALL ABOUT?!
WE'RE TO BRING VENOM TO THE DAILY BUGLE, TO PROVIDE AN EXCLUSIVE STORY FOR THAT PUBLICATION!
NOW GIVE ME BACK MY WEAPON!
JONAH HIRED THESE GUYS? AND--OH, MAN! TALK ABOUT ADDING INSULT TO INJURY! THERE'S LANCE BANNON!
JONAH DIDN'T EVEN ASSIGN ME TO TAKE THE PHOTOS! I--
--UH-OH! SPIDER-SENSE!
DANGER!
POWELL, YOU IMBECILE! YOU HIT THE SONIC GUN!
CHAKACHAK
KACHOW

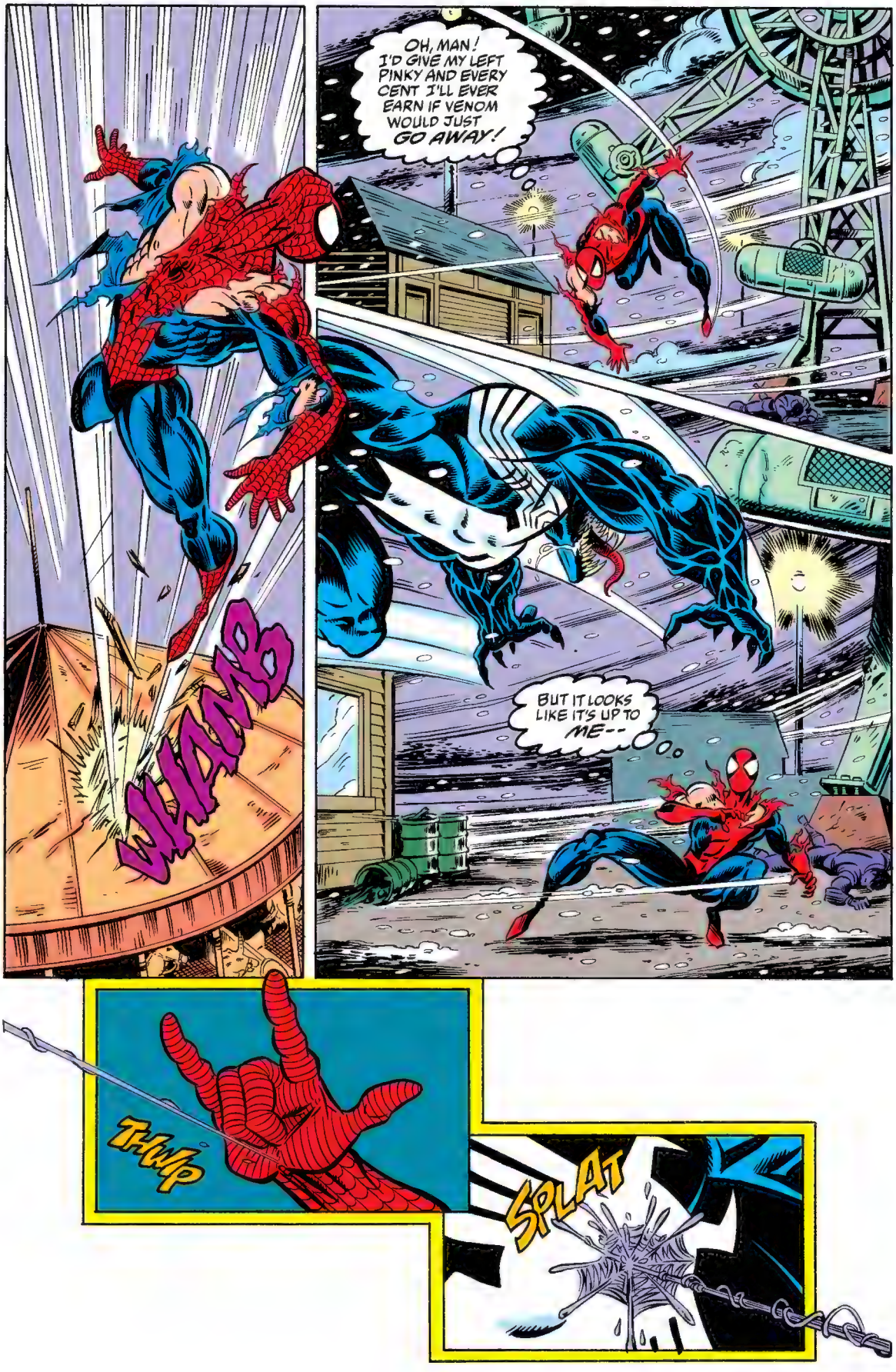

AW, SHOOT, PARLIN'! AH ONLY WANTED TA SCARE THE WEB-GUY OFF!
THEN MAYBE THE "WEB-GUY" SHOULD RETURN THE FAVOR!
WHUD
A DOOR! HURRY, MARY! WE SHOULD BE...
...SAFE...
"...NOW?"
BWOK
CHARUNK
NICE PUNCH, SLICK! I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE HOT--

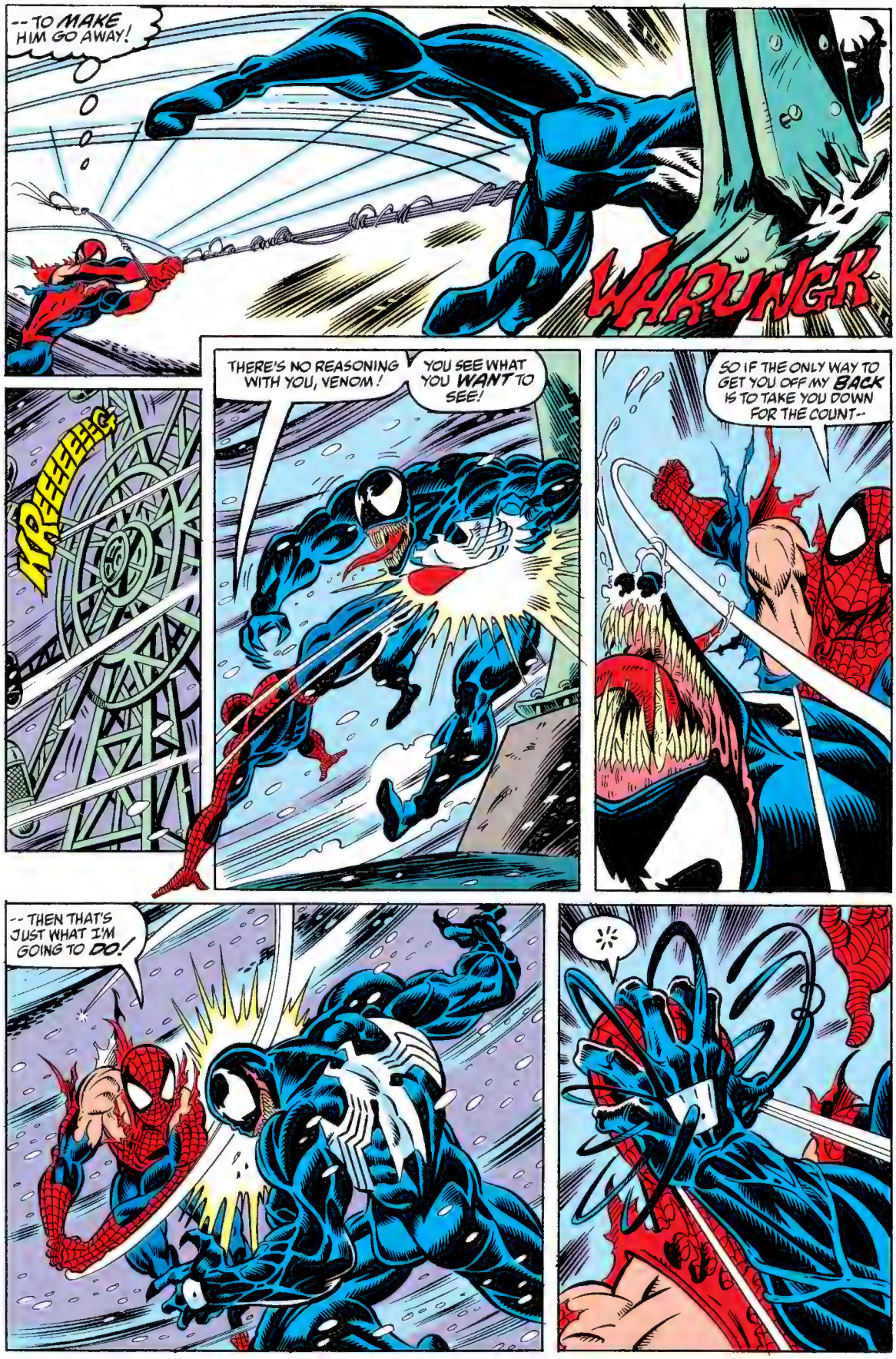
--YOU'RE REEEAL HOT!
FWOOOSH
AND WHEN YOU'RE NOT...!
UH... OH.
DROP HIM, OR I'LL SPLATTER YOU OVER HALF THIS PARK!
I SAID LET HIM GO!
OHHHH...
...OKAY!
=HRNF=
=WHNGG=
CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR--eh?
H-HELP! PLEASE!
OH, NO! NO!

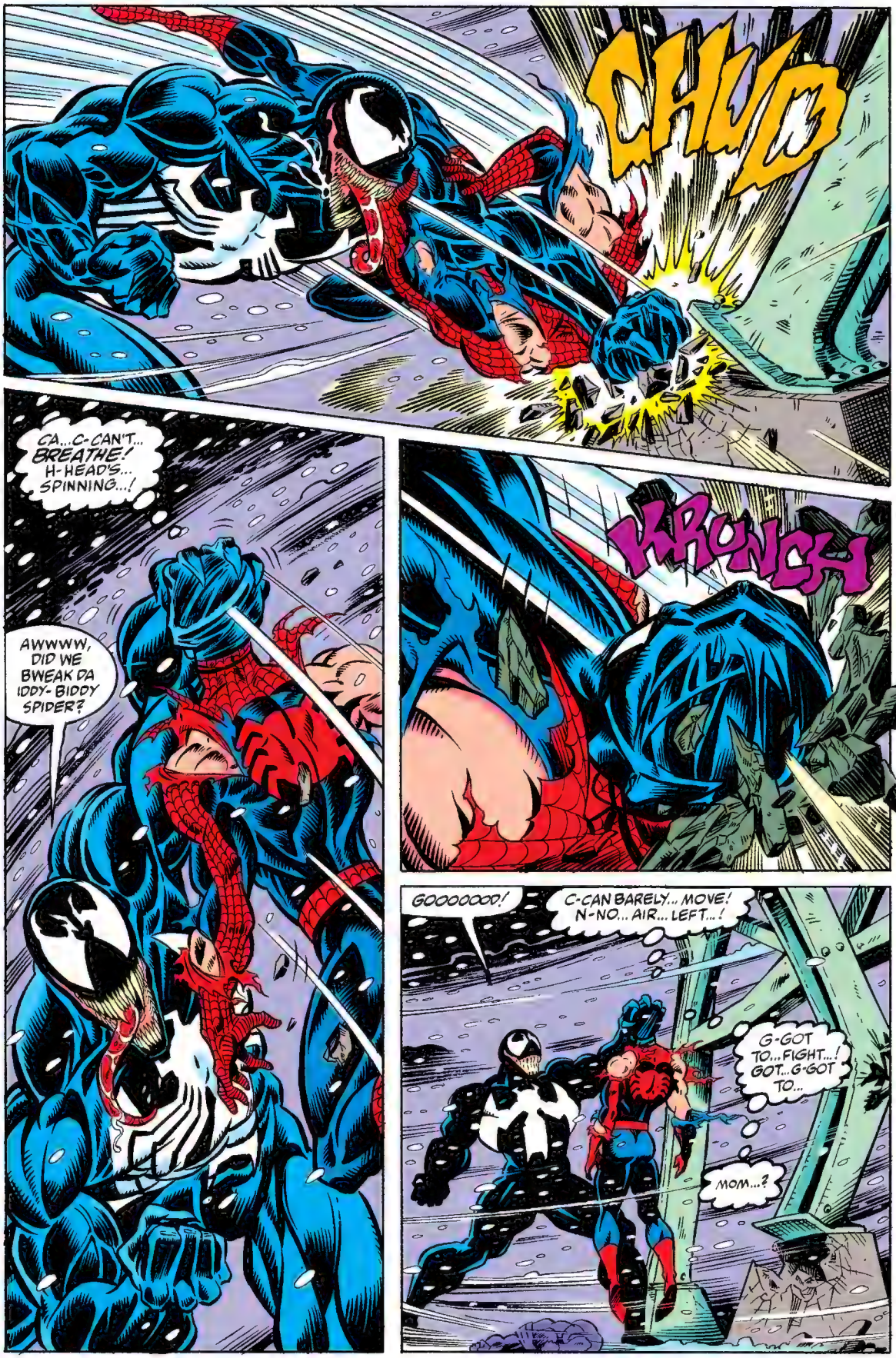
THE PARKERS --LOOSE?
A-AND SURROUNDED BY FIRE, ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT CAN HURT US!
PERHAPS.. EVEN KILL US!
WE CAN'T... W-WE JUST CAN'T--!
WE MUST!
SO HOT! L-LIKE THE TONGUES OF A DEMON!
TO US, DEAR PEOPLE! QUICKLY!
HOLD TIGHT!
WE PROMISED NOTHING WOULD HARM YOU!
TAKE CARE OF THEM, ANNIE! WE'LL BE BACK SOON!
BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO... DEVOUR!

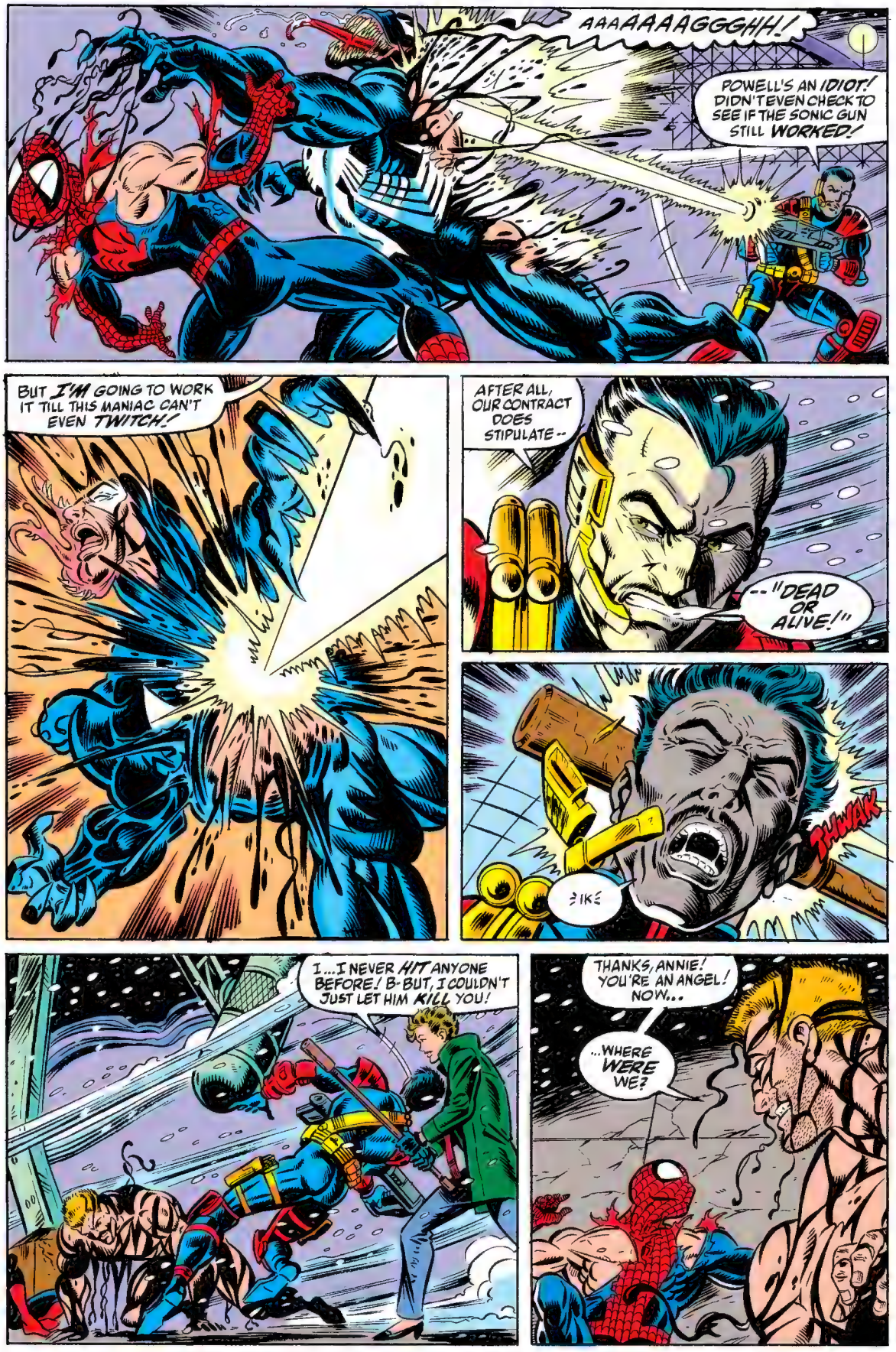

STAY OUT OF THIS, SPIDER-MAN!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
DON'T WORRY-- YOU WON'T!
SO MUCH FOR THE WILD PACK!
NOW, HOW DO I FIND VENOM?
UNNHN...
KRA-
KAMM!
WHAGGH!

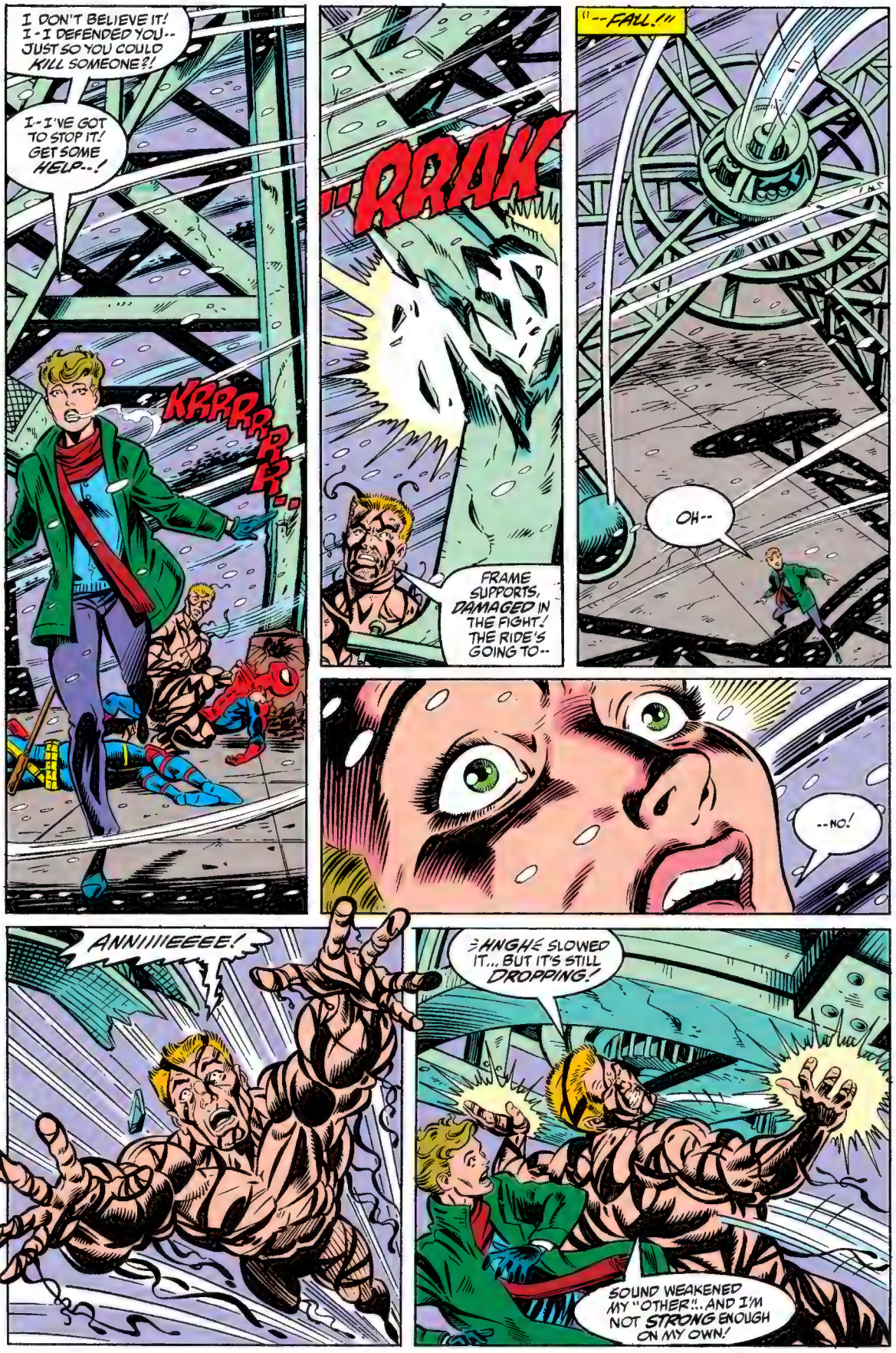
KAKASH
OOOOOOOKAY! NOW--
--HOW DO I GET RID OF HIM?
PLEASE! GET THESE PEOPLE TO SHELTER! THEY'RE FREEZING!
BUT WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?
I...I DON'T KNOW.

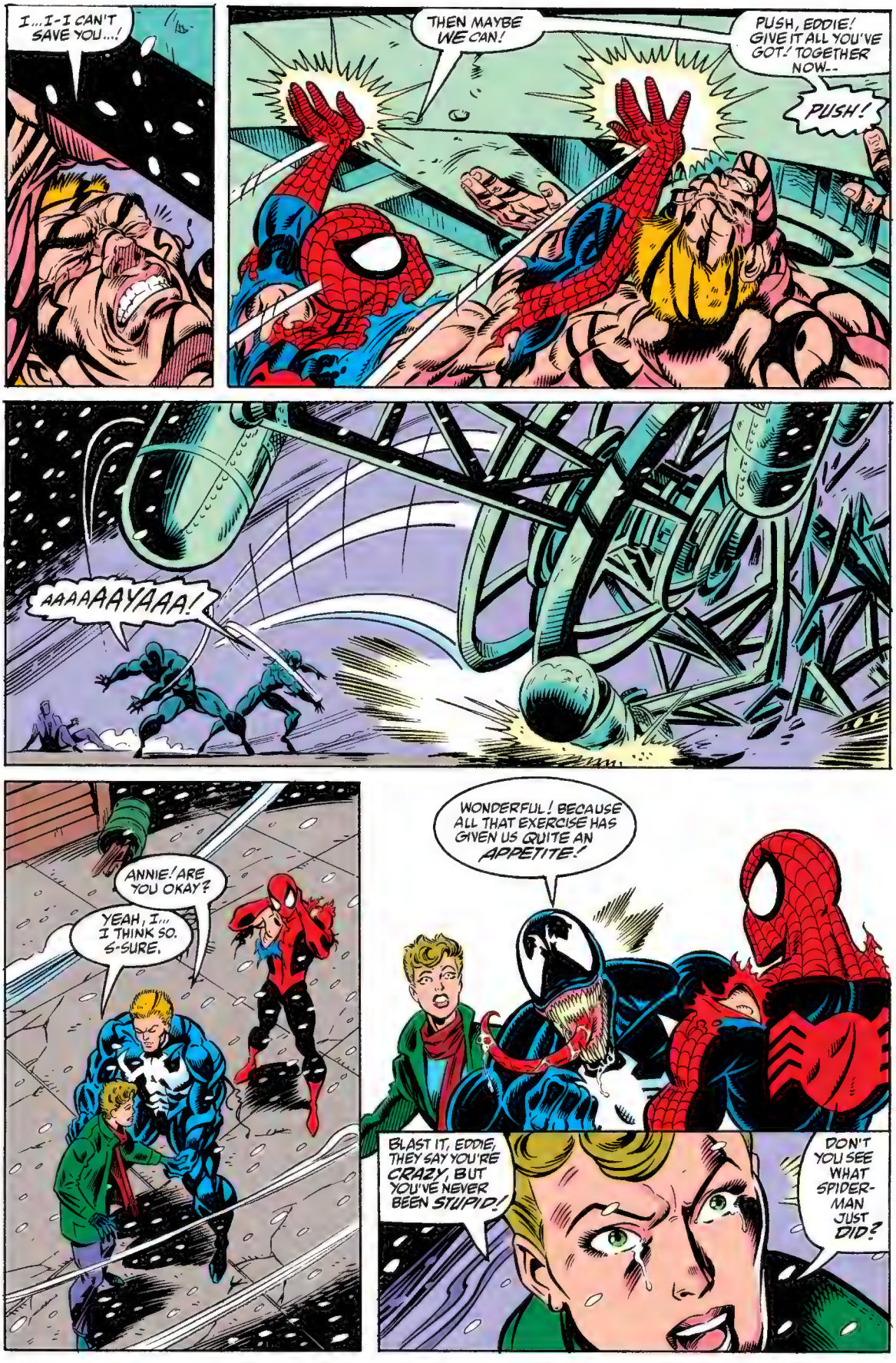

WHAMB
OH, MAN! I'D GIVE MY LEFT PINKY AND EVERY CENT I'LL EVER EARN IF VENOM WOULD JUST GO AWAY!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME--
THWIP
SPLAT

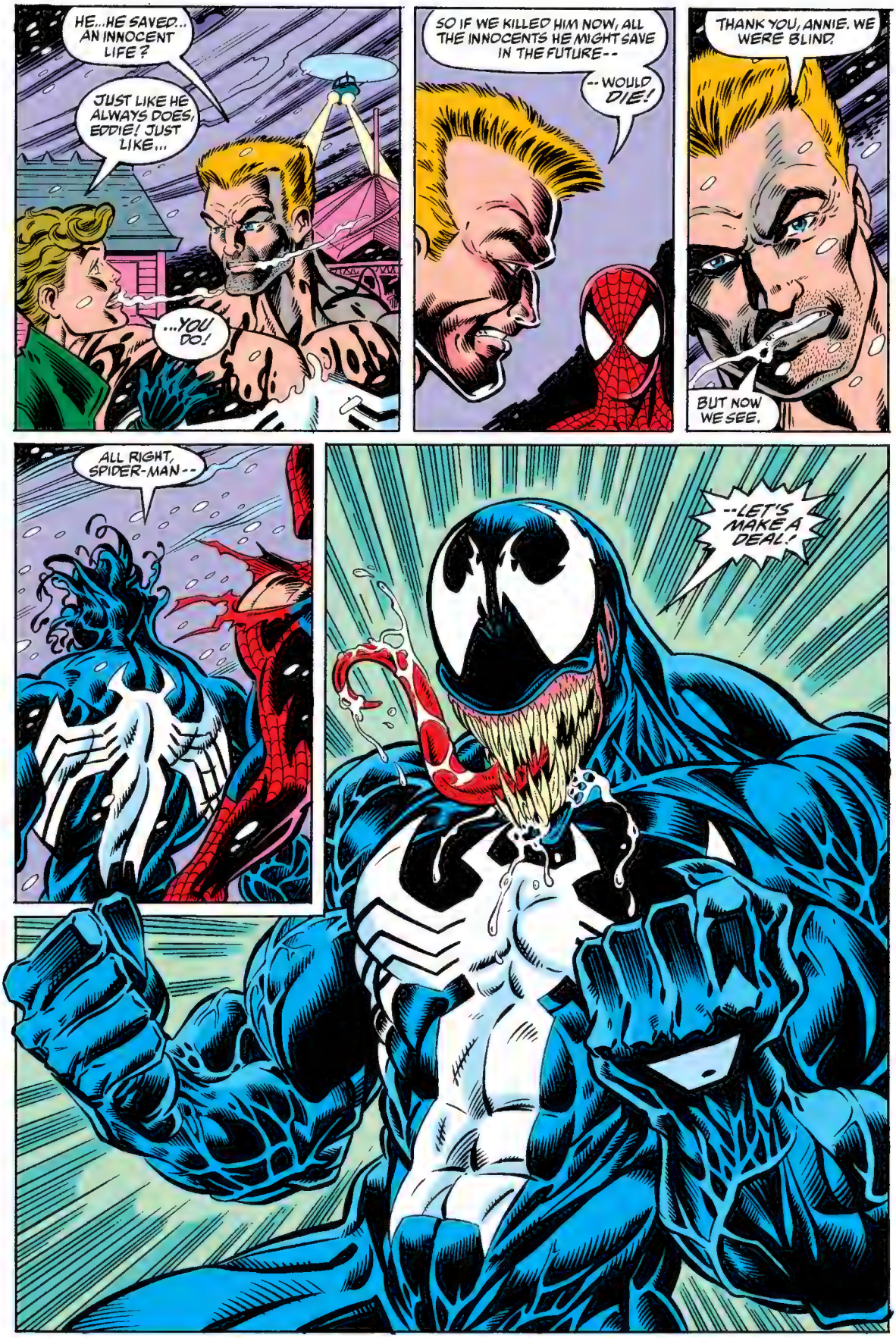

-- TO MAKE HIM GO AWAY!
WHRUNGK
KREEEEEG
THERE'S NO REASONING WITH YOU, VENOM!
YOU SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE!
SO IF THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU OFF MY BACK IS TO TAKE YOU DOWN FOR THE COUNT--
-- THEN THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!
!

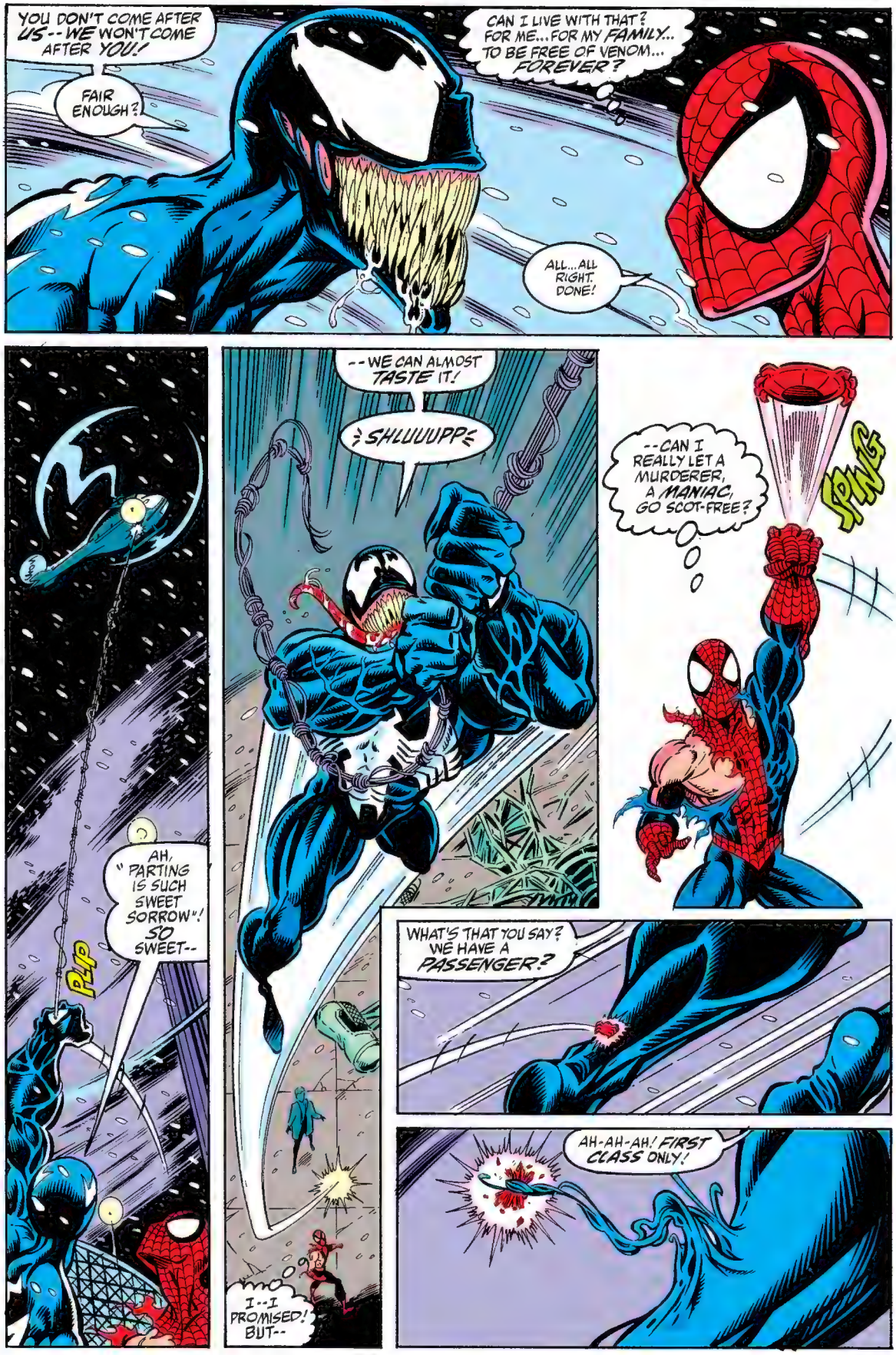

CHUD
KRUNCH
CA...C-CAN'T... BREATHE! H-HEAD'S... SPINNING...!
AWWWW, DID WE BWEAK DA IDDY-BIDDY SPIDER?
GOOOOOOD!
C-CAN BARELY... MOVE! N-NO... AIR... LEFT...!
G-GOT TO... FIGHT...! GOT...G-GOT TO...
MOM...?

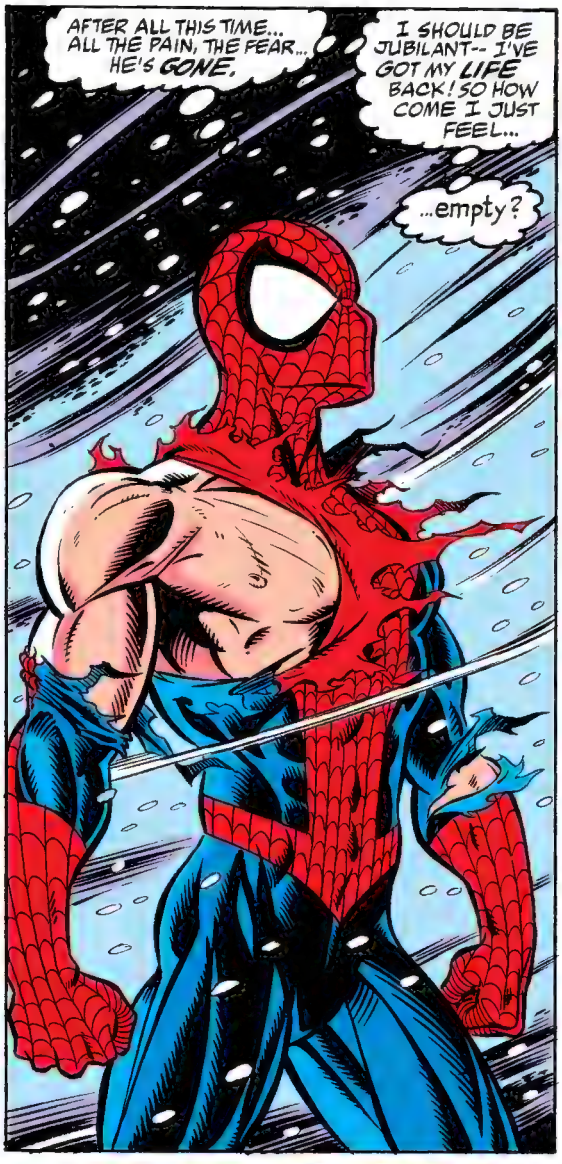

AAAAAAAGGGHH!
POWELL'S AN IDIOT! DIDN'T EVEN CHECK TO SEE IF THE SONIC GUN STILL WORKED!
BUT I'M GOING TO WORK IT TILL THIS MANIAC CAN'T EVEN TWITCH!
AFTER ALL, OUR CONTRACT DOES STIPULATE--
--"DEAD OR ALIVE!"
THWAK
EIKE
I...I NEVER HIT ANYONE BEFORE! B-BUT, I COULDN'T JUST LET HIM KILL YOU!
THANKS, ANNIE! YOU'RE AN ANGEL! NOW...
...WHERE WERE WE?

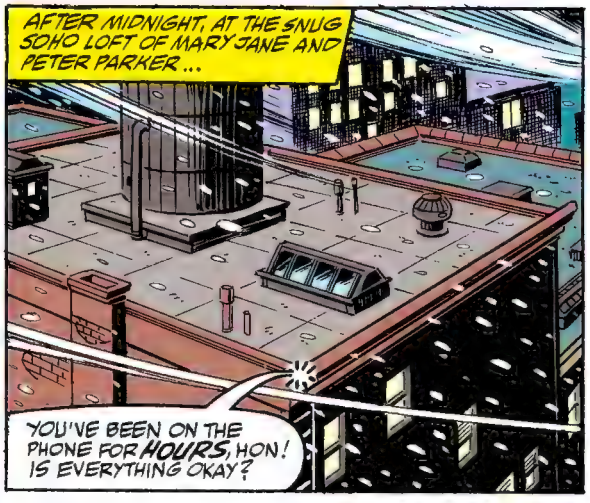

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I-I DEFENDED YOU-- JUST SO YOU COULD KILL SOMEONE?!
I-I'VE GOT TO STOP IT! GET SOME HELP--!
KRRRRRRR..
RRAK
FRAME SUPPORTS, DAMAGED IN THE FIGHT! THE RIDE'S GOING TO--
"--FALL!"
OH--
--NO!
ANNIIIIEEEE!
>HNGH< SLOWED IT... BUT IT'S STILL DROPPING!
SOUND WEAKENED MY "OTHER"... AND I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH ON MY OWN!


I...I-I CAN'T SAVE YOU...!
THEN MAYBE WE CAN!
PUSH, EDDIE! GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT! TOGETHER NOW--
PUSH!
AAAAAAYAAA!
ANNIE! ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, I... I THINK SO. S-SURE.
WONDERFUL! BECAUSE ALL THAT EXERCISE HAS GIVEN US QUITE AN APPETITE!
BLAST IT, EDDIE, THEY SAY YOU'RE CRAZY, BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN STUPID!
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT SPIDER-MAN JUST DID?


HE...HE SAVED... AN INNOCENT LIFE?
JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES, EDDIE! JUST LIKE...
...YOU DO!
SO IF WE KILLED HIM NOW, ALL THE INNOCENTS HE MIGHT SAVE IN THE FUTURE--
--WOULD DIE!
THANK YOU, ANNIE. WE WERE BLIND.
BUT NOW WE SEE.
ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN--
--LET'S MAKE A DEAL!


YOU DON'T COME AFTER US--WE WON'T COME AFTER YOU!
FAIR ENOUGH?
CAN I LIVE WITH THAT? FOR ME...FOR MY FAMILY... TO BE FREE OF VENOM... FOREVER?
ALL...ALL RIGHT. DONE!
--WE CAN ALMOST TASTE IT!
SHLUUUPP
--CAN I REALLY LET A MURDERER, A MANIAC, GO SCOT-FREE?
SPNG
AH, "PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW"! SO SWEET--
PLOP
I--I PROMISED! BUT--
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? WE HAVE A PASSENGER?
AH-AH-AH! FIRST CLASS ONLY!

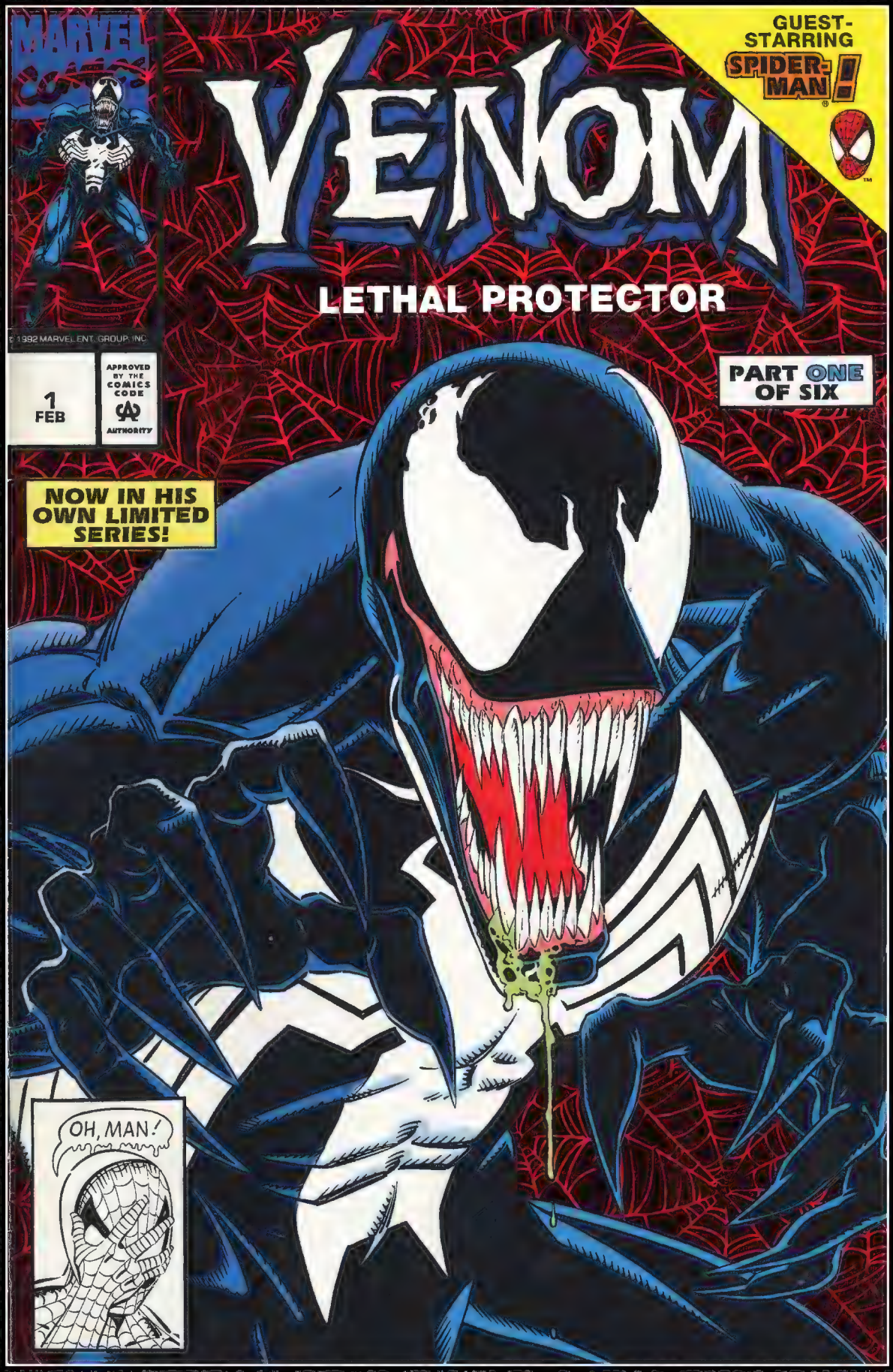



AFTER MIDNIGHT, AT THE SNUG SOHO LOFT OF MARY JANE AND PETER PARKER...
YOU'VE BEEN ON THE PHONE FOR HOURS, HON! IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

MOSTLY. AUNT MAY SAYS MOM AND DAD ARE SLEEPING-- THE DOCTOR GAVE THEM A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH. AND ANNE WEYING SEEMS TO BE COPING WELL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT S.W.A.T. 'COPTER WAS JUST FOUND IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA!

TIME WILL TELL! BUT IF YOU CAN'T WAIT, FIND THE ANSWER IN VENOM'S VERY FIRST LIMITED SERIES -- LETHAL PROTECTOR-- ON SALE NOW!

AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, BE HERE NEXT ISSUE WHEN CARDIAC SQUARES OFF AGAINST STYX & STONE-- WITH SPIDEY CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE! (HEY, YOU DIDN'T THINK WE WERE GONNA LET YOU CATCH YOUR BREATH, DIDJA?)


MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
GUEST-STARRING SPIDER-MAN!
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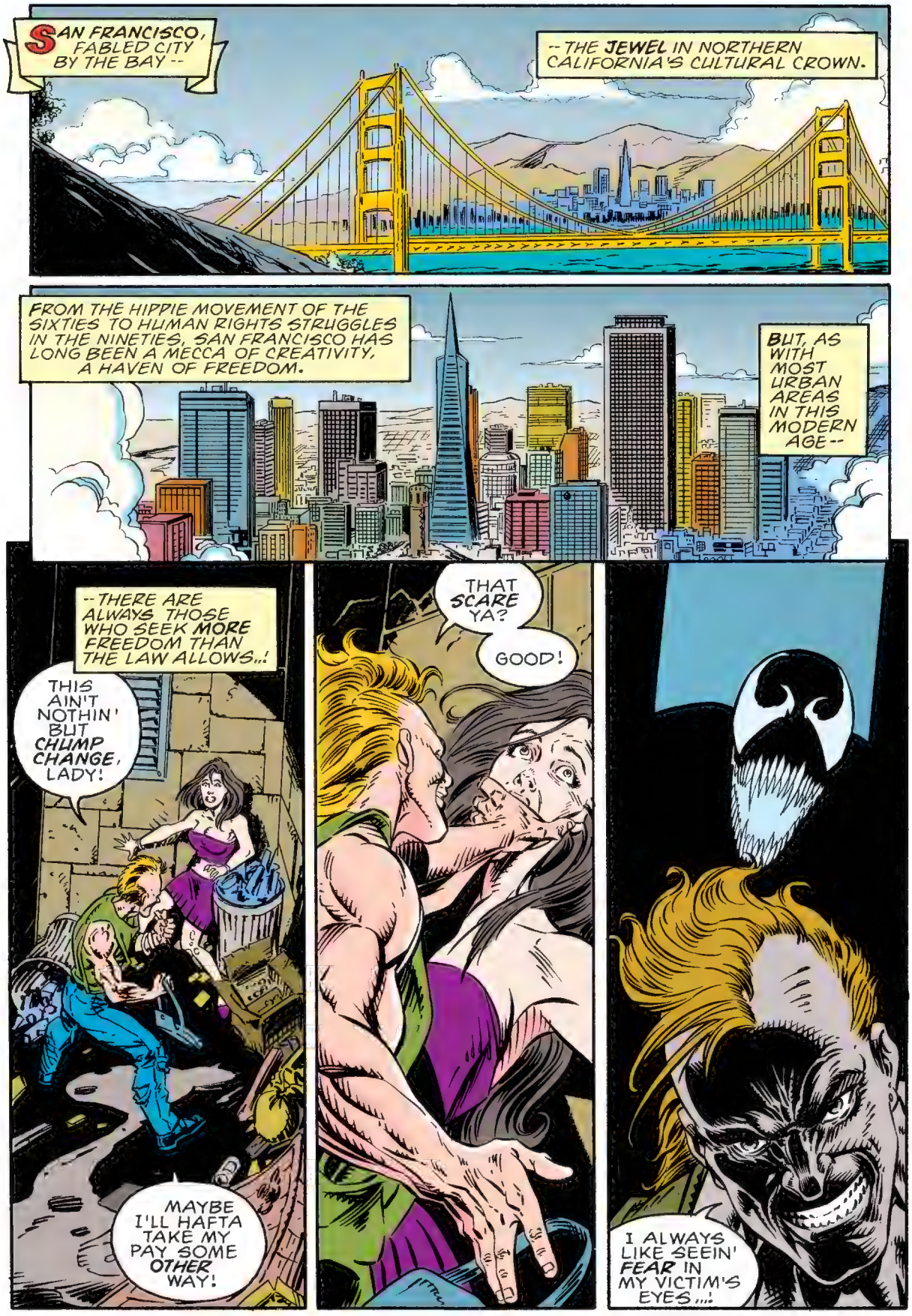
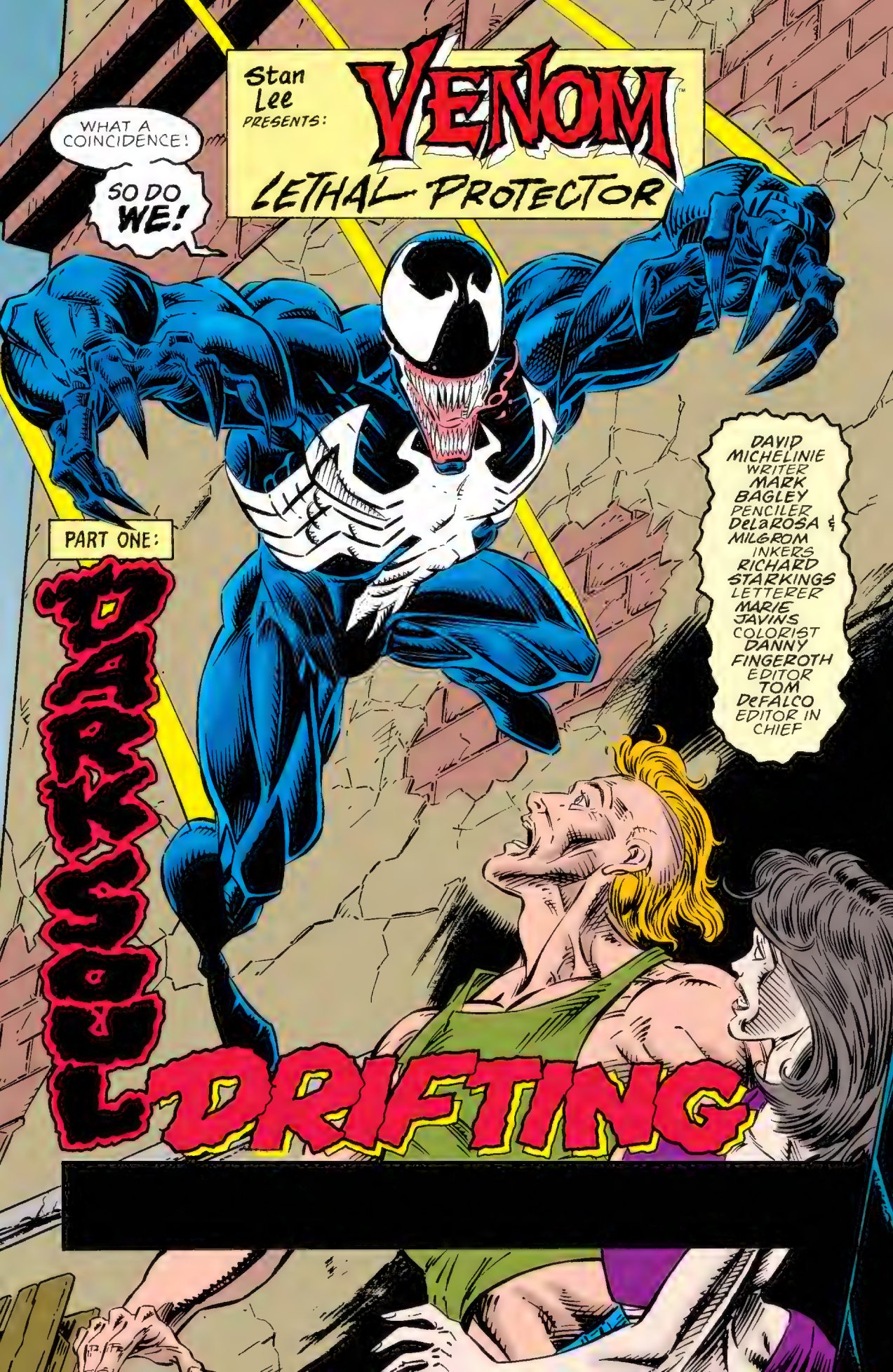
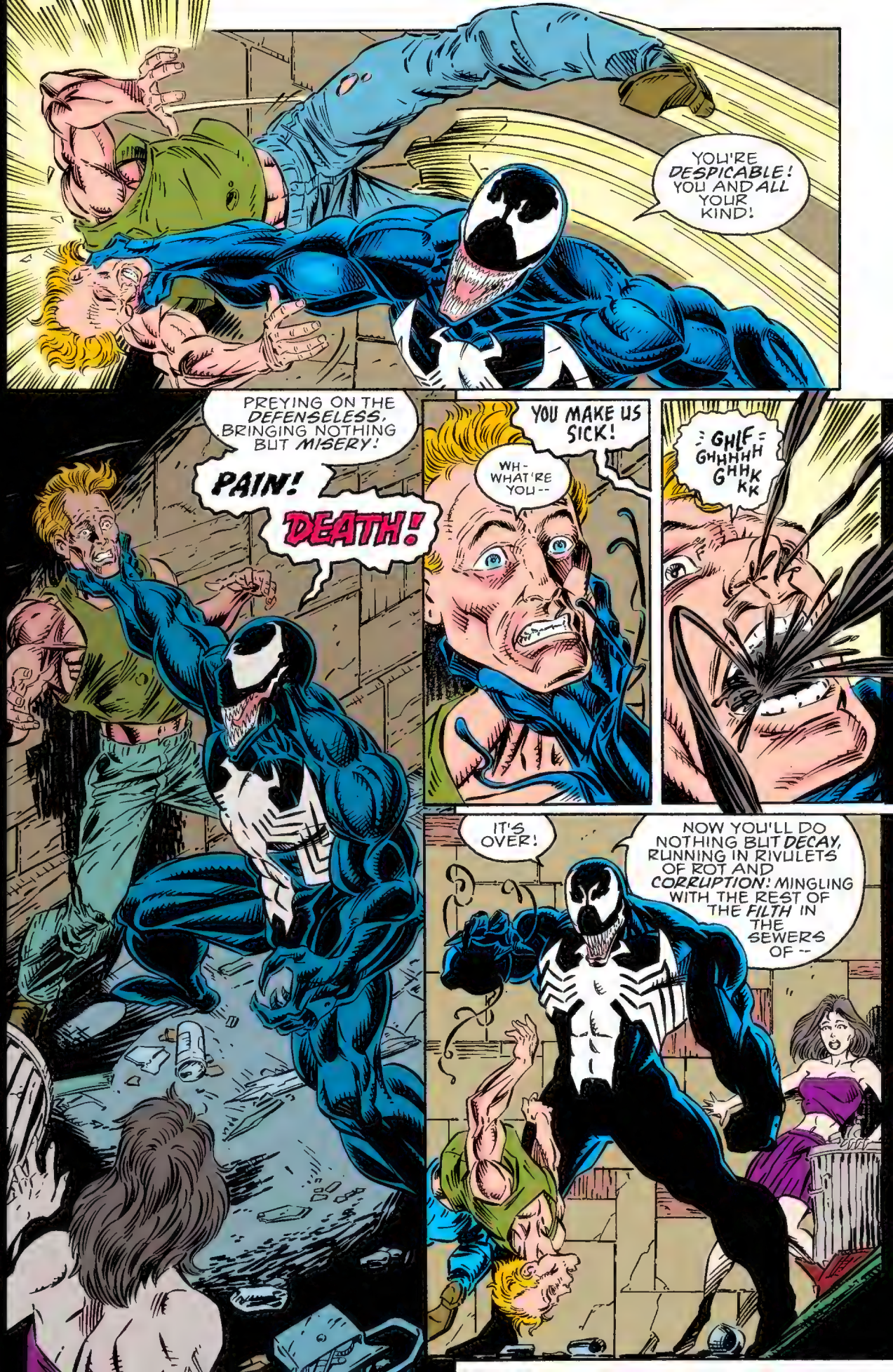
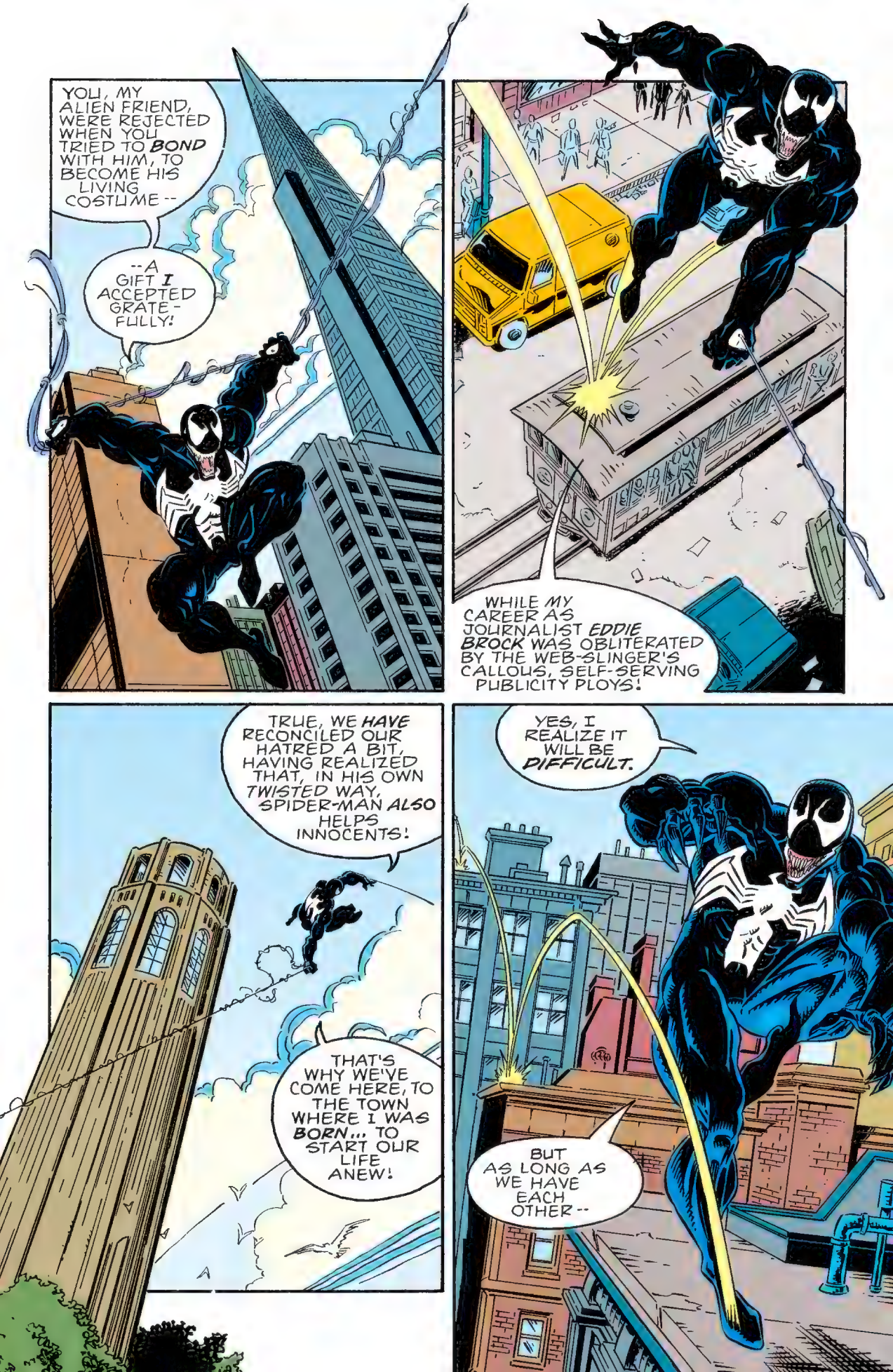
1 FEB
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PART ONE OF SIX
NOW IN HIS OWN LIMITED SERIES!
OH, MAN!


SAN FRANCISCO, FABLED CITY BY THE BAY --
--THE JEWEL IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CULTURAL CROWN.
FROM THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT OF THE SIXTIES TO HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLES IN THE NINETIES, SAN FRANCISCO HAS LONG BEEN A MECCA OF CREATIVITY, A HAVEN OF FREEDOM.
BUT, AS WITH MOST URBAN AREAS IN THIS MODERN AGE--
--THERE ARE ALWAYS THOSE WHO SEEK MORE FREEDOM THAN THE LAW ALLOWS...!
THIS AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT CHUMP CHANGE, LADY!
MAYBE I'LL HAFTA TAKE MY PAY SOME OTHER WAY!
THAT SCARE YA?
GOOD!
I ALWAYS LIKE SEEIN' FEAR IN MY VICTIM'S EYES...!


Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
SO DO WE!
PART ONE:
DARKSIDE DRIFTING
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER
MARK BAGLEY PENCILER
DeLaROSA & MILGROM INKERS
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
MARIE JAVINS COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


YOU'RE DESPICABLE! YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND!
PREYING ON THE DEFENSELESS, BRINGING NOTHING BUT MISERY!
PAIN!
DEATH!
YOU MAKE US SICK!
WH- WHAT'RE YOU --
GHLF GHHHHH GHHK KK
IT'S OVER!
NOW YOU'LL DO NOTHING BUT DECAY, RUNNING IN RIVULETS OF ROT AND CORRUPTION! MINGLING WITH THE REST OF THE FILTH IN THE SEWERS OF --

--Oh. FORGIVE US. WE'RE BEING RUDE.
HI!
WE'RE VENOM.
HERE...
...YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
NO, PLEASE, THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK US.
YOUR JOY IS REWARD ENOUGH--
--AND SENDS ME LEAPING HAPPILY ON MY WAY.
SEEEEEEEE
YES, I AGREE-- PROTECTING INNOCENTS IS SATISFYING INDEED!
AFTER ALL, WE WERE INNOCENT ONCE-- BEFORE THAT VILE SPIDER-MAN SHATTERED OUR LIVES!
PLIP

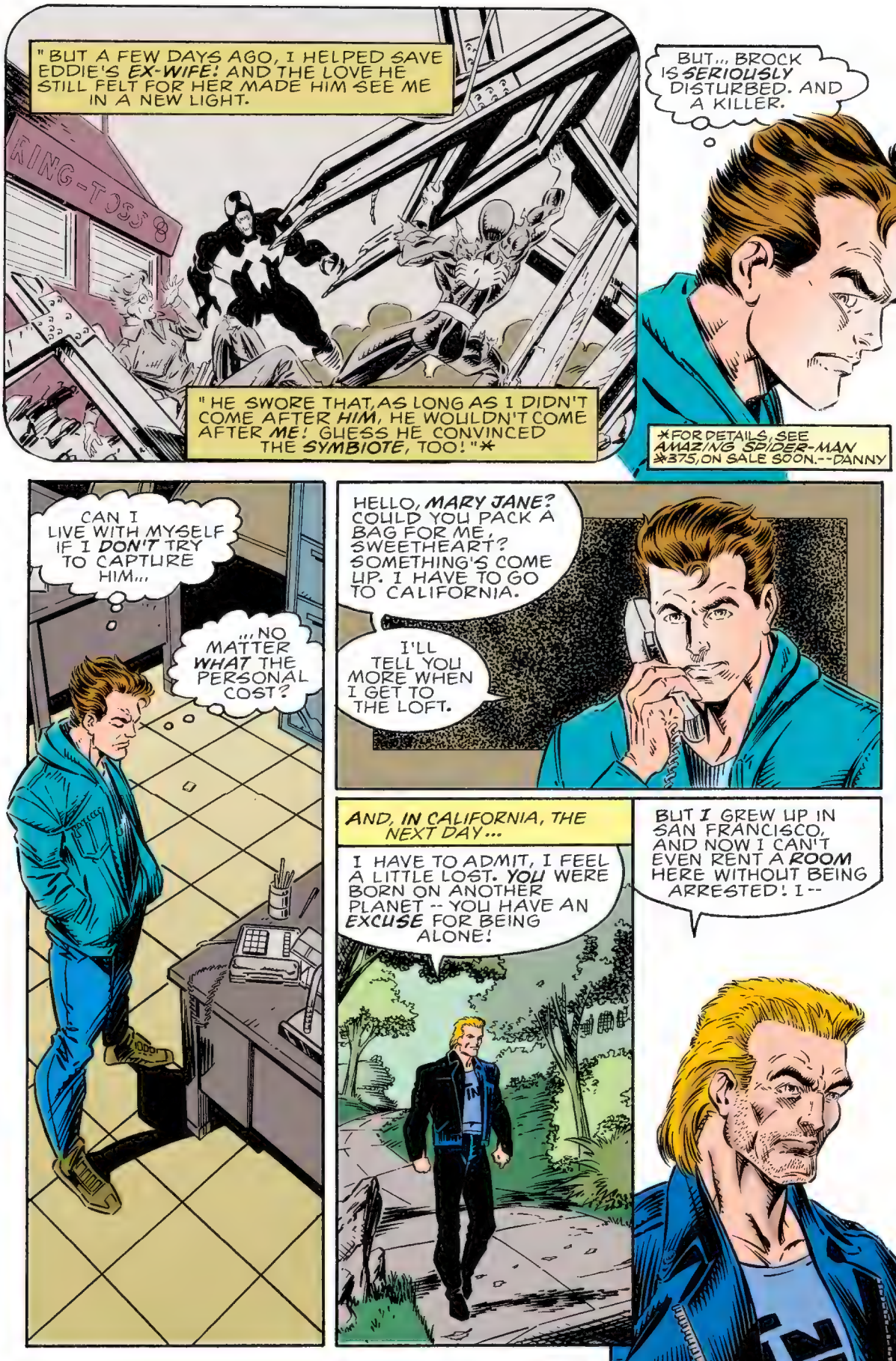

YOU, MY ALIEN FRIEND, WERE REJECTED WHEN YOU TRIED TO BOND WITH HIM, TO BECOME HIS LIVING COSTUME --
--A GIFT I ACCEPTED GRATEFULLY!
WHILE MY CAREER AS JOURNALIST EDDIE BROCK WAS OBLITERATED BY THE WEB-SLINGER'S CALLOUS, SELF-SERVING PUBLICITY PLOYS!
TRUE, WE HAVE RECONCILED OUR HATRED A BIT, HAVING REALIZED THAT, IN HIS OWN TWISTED WAY, SPIDER-MAN ALSO HELPS INNOCENTS!
THAT'S WHY WE'VE COME HERE, TO THE TOWN WHERE I WAS BORN... TO START OUR LIFE ANEW!
YES, I REALIZE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT.
BUT AS LONG AS WE HAVE EACH OTHER --

WE --
WILL--
--SURVIVE!
FIRST THINGS FIRST: LODGING!
SIMON! PULL OVER! HAND ME THE "WANT" SHEET!
THAT LOOK LIKE EDWARD BROCK TO YOU? HAIR'S DIFFERENT, BUT...
CAN'T TELL FROM HERE. BETTER MAKE SURE BEFORE CALLIN' IT IN!
BROCK
...NO, JUST ONE NIGHT. WE'LL -- I'LL -- LET YOU KNOW TOMORROW IF --
HIND
KEEP THOSE HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE 'EM, FELLA! WE JUST WANT TO ASK YOU SOME -- HOLY GEEZ! I-IT IS HIM!
Y-YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, BROCK -- FOR MURDER!
EVEN HERE, NO PEACE..!
NO PETS PARTIES LOUD MUSIC COOKING SPITTING SMOKING TIE-DYES YOUNG-BLOODS
HIND

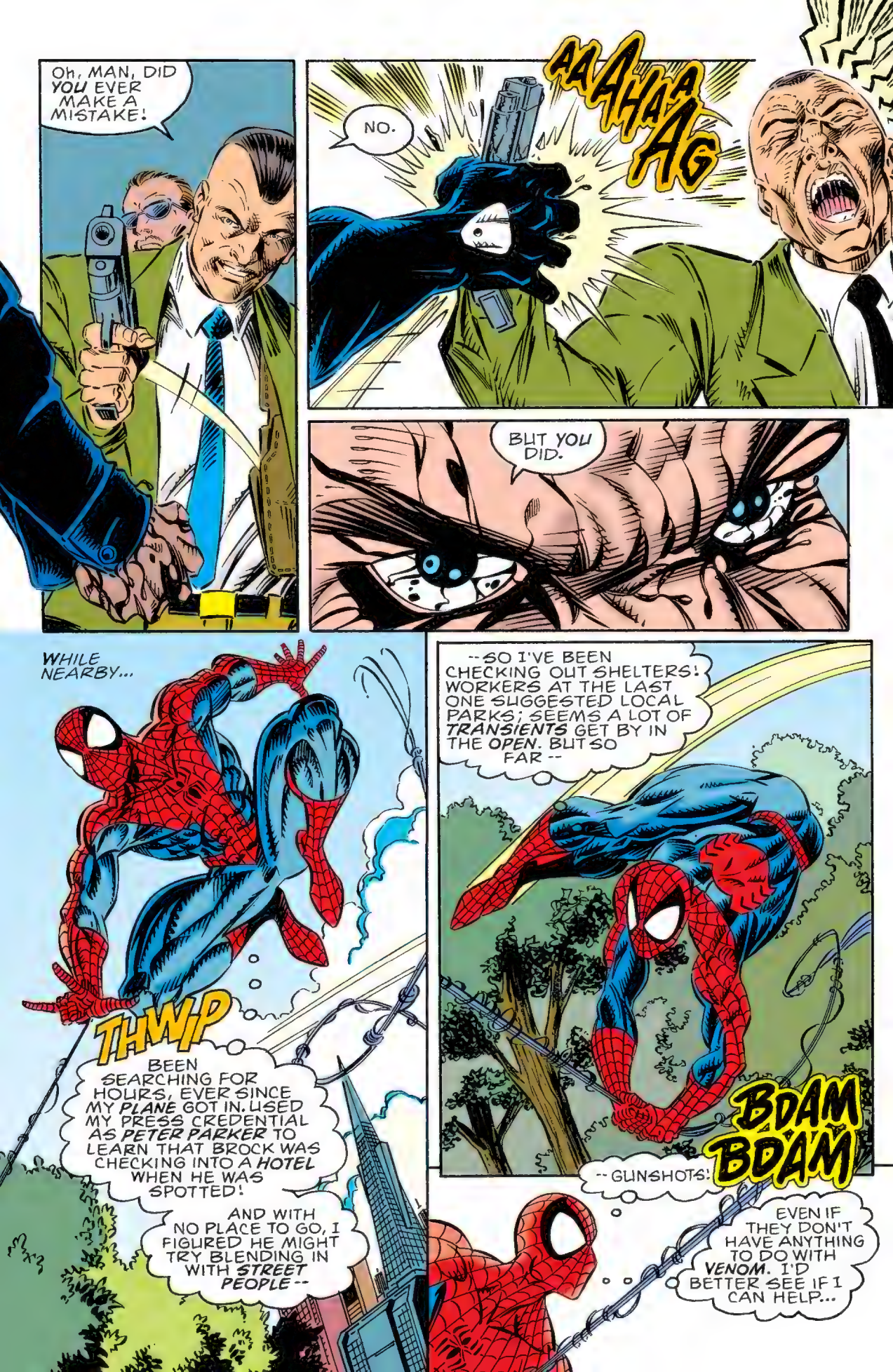
PLIP
PLIP
WE DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
WE KNOW YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOBS!
AND FINE JOBS THEY ARE!
THIS HURTS US --
SPATCH
PESH
--ALMOST AS MUCH AS IT DOES YOU!
RATES
YAMP
THUB
Oh, ONE OTHER THING: CANCEL THAT ROOM!
Y-Y-YOU BET!
BUSTER! WH-WHAT IS IT?!
HEY, I SEEN HIM ON SIXTY MINUTES! IT'S SOME CRAZY GUY --
--CALLED VENOM!
BABS, HONEY, THIS PHOTO'S GONNA PAY FOR OUR VACATION!
CLICK

MANHATTAN, SOME HOURS LATER...
NICE PHOTOS, PETE!
DAILY BUGLE
THANKS, BEN, I'M JUST GLAD ROBBIE BOUGHT THEM -- I CAN USE THE MONEY!
TOO BAD VENOM DIDN'T RESURFACE HERE. PICTURES OF HIM ALWAYS SELL!
YEAH, I-- VENOM?!
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
JUST CAME IN OVER THE U.P.I WIRE -- SOME TOURIST TOOK THIS SNAP OF VENOM IN SAN FRANCISCO, AFTER A RUN-IN WITH LOCAL POLICE!
GUESS WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM THIS TIME!
UH, RIGHT.
I WAS WONDERING WHERE HE'D GONE! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW, WHAT DO I DO?
AFTER ALL, IN A WAY...
...I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR VENOM'S EXISTENCE!
"I'M THE ONE WHO -- AS SPIDER-MAN -- BROUGHT THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE TO EARTH, WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A PROGRAMMABLE COSTUME!
"I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ALIVE, THAT IT WANTED TO JOIN WITH ME FOREVER!
"I FINALLY HAD TO USE SOUND TO GET RID OF IT -- THE LOUD TOLLING OF CATHEDRAL BELLS! FOR A WHILE, I THOUGHT I'D... KILLED IT!

"BUT IT WAS ONLY TEMPORARILY DESTROYED. HURT AS MUCH BY *RETECTION* AS BY PHYSICAL PAIN! REGENERATING, IT COWERED IN THE RAFTERS OF THAT VERY CHURCH, UNCERTAIN, UNTIL IT SENSED SOMEONE ELSE WHO SHARED ITS GROWING *HATRED!*
"*EDDIE BROCK* HAD BEEN AN ACE REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY GLOBE*.
"HE BECAME FAMOUS BY PRINTING INTERVIEWS WITH SOMEONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE SERIAL KILLER CALLED *SIN-EATER*.
DAILY BUGLE
GLOBE DUPED
REAL SIN EATER
DAILY BUGLE
"UNTIL, AS SPIDER-MAN, *I* CAPTURED THE *REAL* MURDERER!
"HE LOST HIS JOB, HIS SELF-RESPECT, EVERYTHING -- AND BLAMED IT ALL ON *ME!* FINDING PURPOSE IN THEIR MUTUAL ANGER, EDDIE AND THE ALIEN JOINED TO BECOME *VENOM!*
"AND TOGETHER, THEIR MAJOR FOCUS WAS TO *DESTROY* ME, SINCE THEY FELT I'D BEEN *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THEIR SEPARATE DOWNFALLS!
"WE BATTLED SEVERAL TIMES.
"MY *DEATH* WAS WHAT THEY LIVED FOR!


"BUT A FEW DAYS AGO, I HELPED SAVE EDDIE'S EX-WIFE! AND THE LOVE HE STILL FELT FOR HER MADE HIM SEE ME IN A NEW LIGHT.
"HE SWORE THAT, AS LONG AS I DIDN'T COME AFTER HIM, HE WOULDN'T COME AFTER ME! GUESS HE CONVINCED THE SYMBIOTE, TOO!"*
BUT... BROCK IS SERIOUSLY DISTURBED. AND A KILLER.
*FOR DETAILS, SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, ON SALE SOON.--DANNY
CAN I LIVE WITH MYSELF IF I DON'T TRY TO CAPTURE HIM...
...NO MATTER WHAT THE PERSONAL COST?
HELLO, MARY JANE? COULD YOU PACK A BAG FOR ME, SWEETHEART? SOMETHING'S COME UP. I HAVE TO GO TO CALIFORNIA.
I'LL TELL YOU MORE WHEN I GET TO THE LOFT.
AND, IN CALIFORNIA, THE NEXT DAY...
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I FEEL A LITTLE LOST. YOU WERE BORN ON ANOTHER PLANET -- YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE FOR BEING ALONE!
BUT I GREW UP IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND NOW I CAN'T EVEN RENT A ROOM HERE WITHOUT BEING ARRESTED! I --

-- Hmm? CONTACT FATHER?
NEVER! THE LAST THING I'LL DO IS ASK THAT ICE-BLOODED MONSTER FOR HELP! BUT...
... WHAT, THEN?
WITHOUT A CAREER, WITHOUT SPIDER-MAN TO RAVAGE, WITHOUT SOME AMBITION...
... WE COULD END UP LIKE THOSE POOR HOMELESS PEOPLE OVER THERE, TRUNDLING OUR SAD POSSESSIONS IN GROCERY CARTS FROM SHELTER TO-- Eh?
WHAT THE--?!
WE WARNED YA TO FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO SET UP HOUSEKEEPIN'!
NOW WE'RE GONNA GIVE YA A PLACE TO STAY -- THE HOSPITAL!
I HEAR THEY SERVE SOFT FOOD THERE!
YA WON'T EVEN MISS YER TEETH..!
Huh?
LEAVE THEM ALONE.

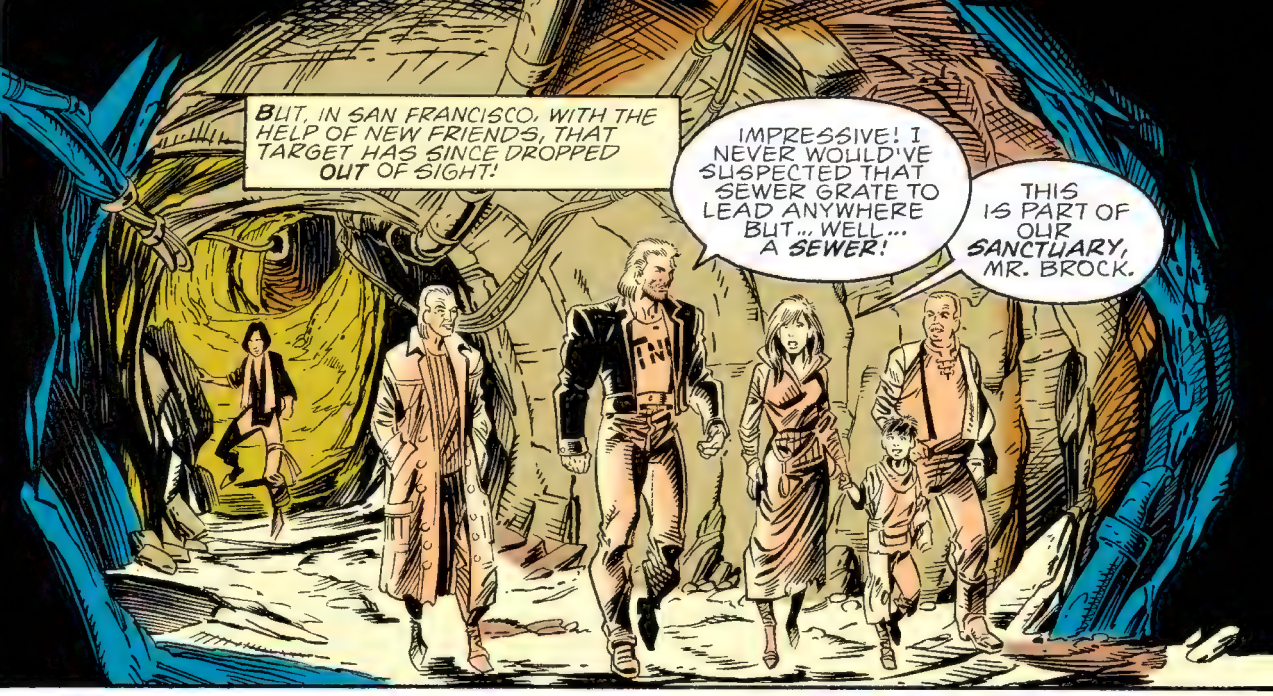

Oh, MAN, DID YOU EVER MAKE A MISTAKE!
NO.
AAAHAG
BUT YOU DID.
WHILE NEARBY...
THWIP
BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS, EVER SINCE MY PLANE GOT IN. USED MY PRESS CREDENTIAL AS PETER PARKER TO LEARN THAT BROCK WAS CHECKING INTO A HOTEL WHEN HE WAS SPOTTED!
AND WITH NO PLACE TO GO, I FIGURED HE MIGHT TRY BLENDING IN WITH STREET PEOPLE --
--SO I'VE BEEN CHECKING OUT SHELTERS! WORKERS AT THE LAST ONE SUGGESTED LOCAL PARKS; SEEMS A LOT OF TRANSIENTS GET BY IN THE OPEN. BUT SO FAR --
--GUNSHOTS!
BDAM BDAM
EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH VENOM. I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN HELP...

OOO, A BEAR HUG! PERHAPS WHEN WE'RE THROUGH WITH THIS COCKROACH, WE'LL HUG YOU BACK!
TILL YOU BURST!
-WHNG-
YEESH! YESTERDAY IT WAS COPS--
--AND NOW IT'S THESE GUYS! WHAT ARE THEY: F.B.I? SECRET SERVICE?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU'D GO BACK TO YOUR OLD WAYS!
SLAMM
ALL THAT TALK ABOUT BOTH OF US PROTECTING INNOCENTS WAS BULL!

BUT YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE, VENOM!
THIS ENDS NOW!
SPAK
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE -- WE HAD AN ARRANGE-MENT.
WE'LL DISCUSS YOUR BETRAYAL LATER.
FOR THE MOMENT, THERE'S SOME-THING YOU NEED TO KNOW: THOSE GENTLE MEN YOU REFER TO AS PEACE OFFICERS --
--AREN'T!
WHA--?
GET 'IM!
BRAKA BRAKA BRAK
CHTTOW
BRR RR RD P

THIS IS NUTS! THE GUY IN THE SUITS ARE TRYING TO KILL ME -- BUT VENOM ISN'T?!
I'VE GOT A FEW ZILLION QUESTIONS TO ASK --
-- AFTER I MAKE SURE THE "UZI BROTHERS" DON'T WIPE OUT A FEW ZILLION INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!
THERE! LAST ONE!
NOW TO -- Aw, GEEZ! I COME THREE THOUSAND MILES LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK, ACTUALLY FIND THE SUCKER --
--THEN END UP RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED?!

WHERE THE BLOODY BLAZES IS VENOM NOW?!
PORTLAND, OREGON; THE RESIDENCE OF GENERAL ORWELL TAYLOR, U.S ARMY, RETIRED.
THERE HE IS...
THIS JUST IN FROM SAN FRANCISCO...
AT LAST!
"VENGEANCE IS MINE, SAYETH THE LORD!"
AND SOON, HUGH... VERY SOON, INDEED...
... RIGHTEOUS REVENGE WILL BE OURS, AS WELL!
SQUAD LEADER ELKINS? ASSEMBLE YOUR MEN!
TARGET SIGHTED!

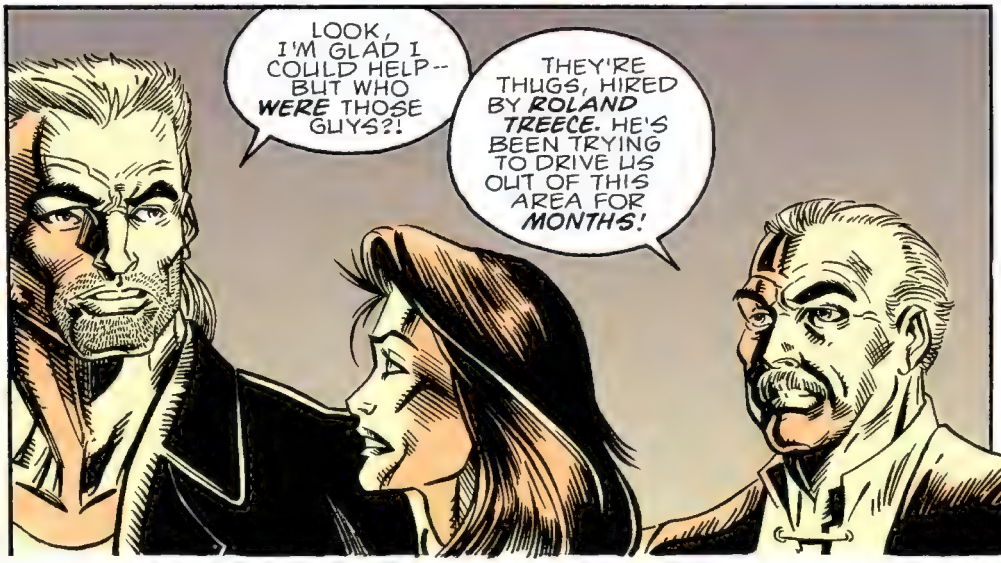

BUT, IN SAN FRANCISCO, WITH THE HELP OF NEW FRIENDS, THAT TARGET HAS SINCE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT!
IMPRESSIVE! I NEVER WOULD'VE SUSPECTED THAT SEWER GRATE TO LEAD ANYWHERE BUT... WELL... A SEWER!
THIS IS PART OF OUR SANCTUARY, MR. BROCK.

AND THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE WHO SO SELFLESSLY CAME TO THE AID OF STRANGERS.

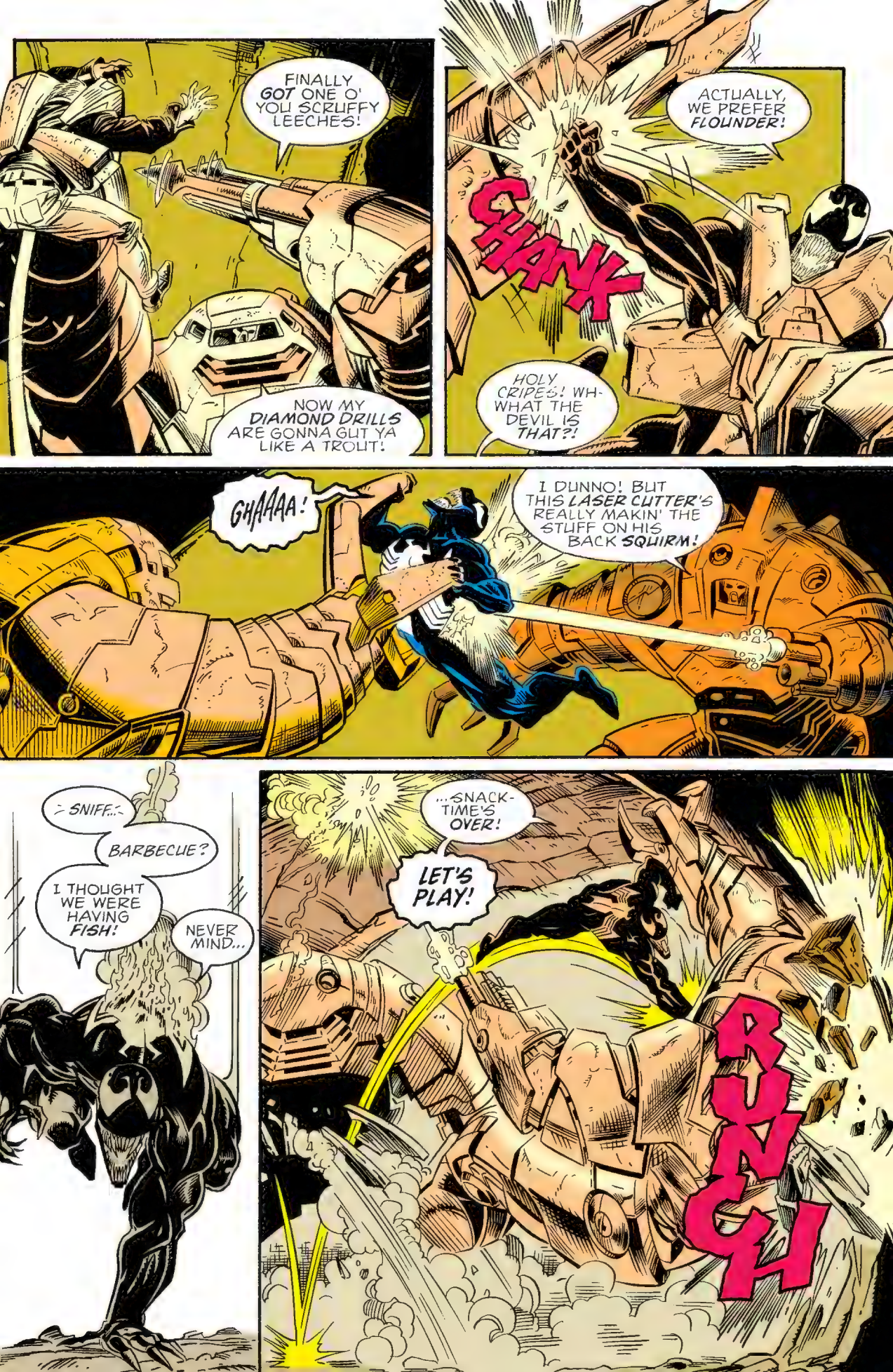
ARE YOU CRAZY, OR JUST STUPID? HE'S VENOM, A PSYCHO WITH A SPACE MONSTER FOR CLOTHES! HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF SHARING OUR --
THAT'S ENOUGH, NATHANIEL!

WHETHER HE STAYS ISN'T UP TO YOU OR ELIZABETH! THE COUNCIL WILL DECIDE!

AND WE'LL ALL ABIDE BY THEIR RULING!

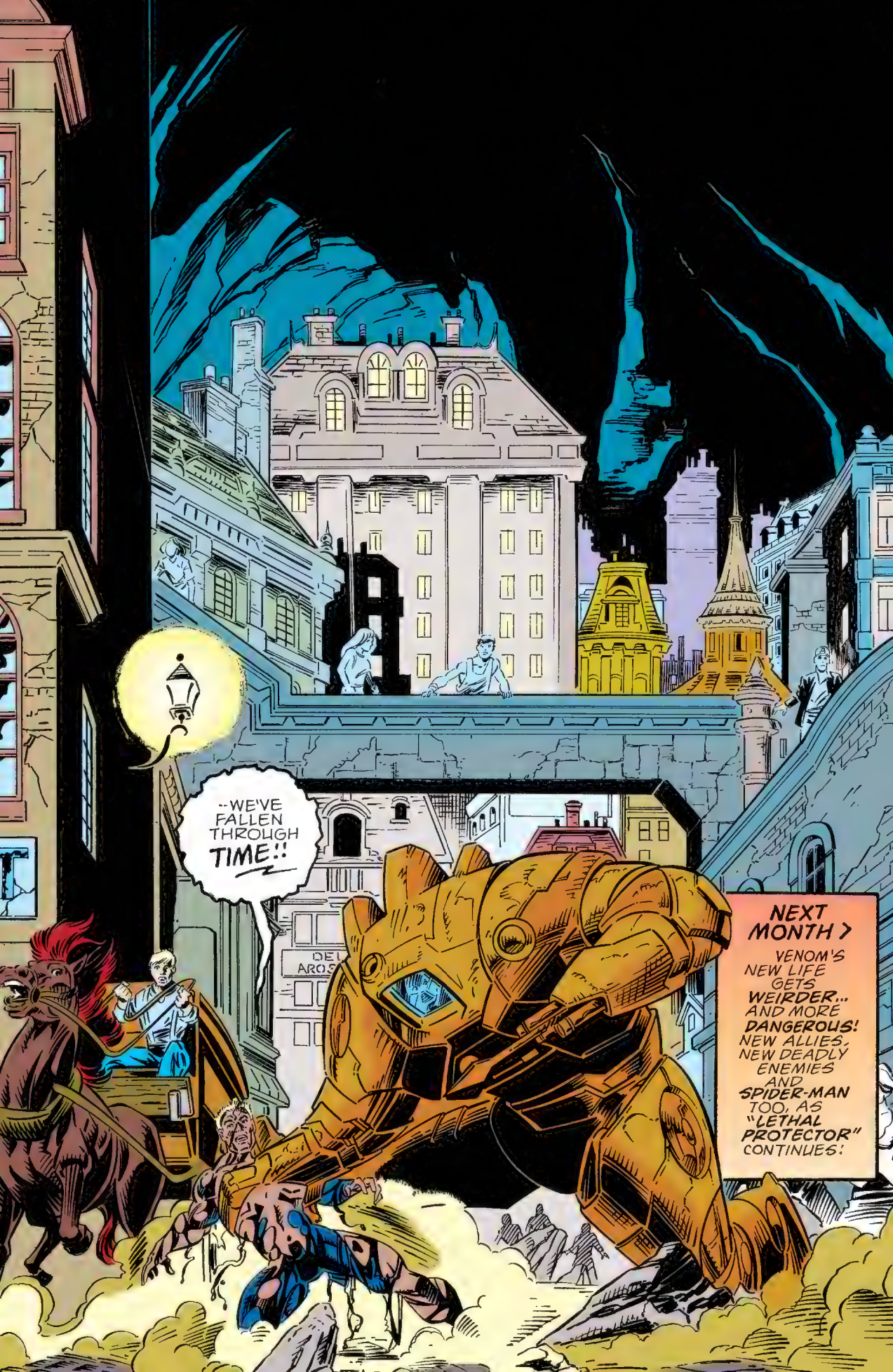

LOOK, I'M GLAD I COULD HELP -- BUT WHO WERE THOSE GUYS?!
THEY'RE THUGS, HIRED BY ROLAND TREECE. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO DRIVE US OUT OF THIS AREA FOR MONTHS!

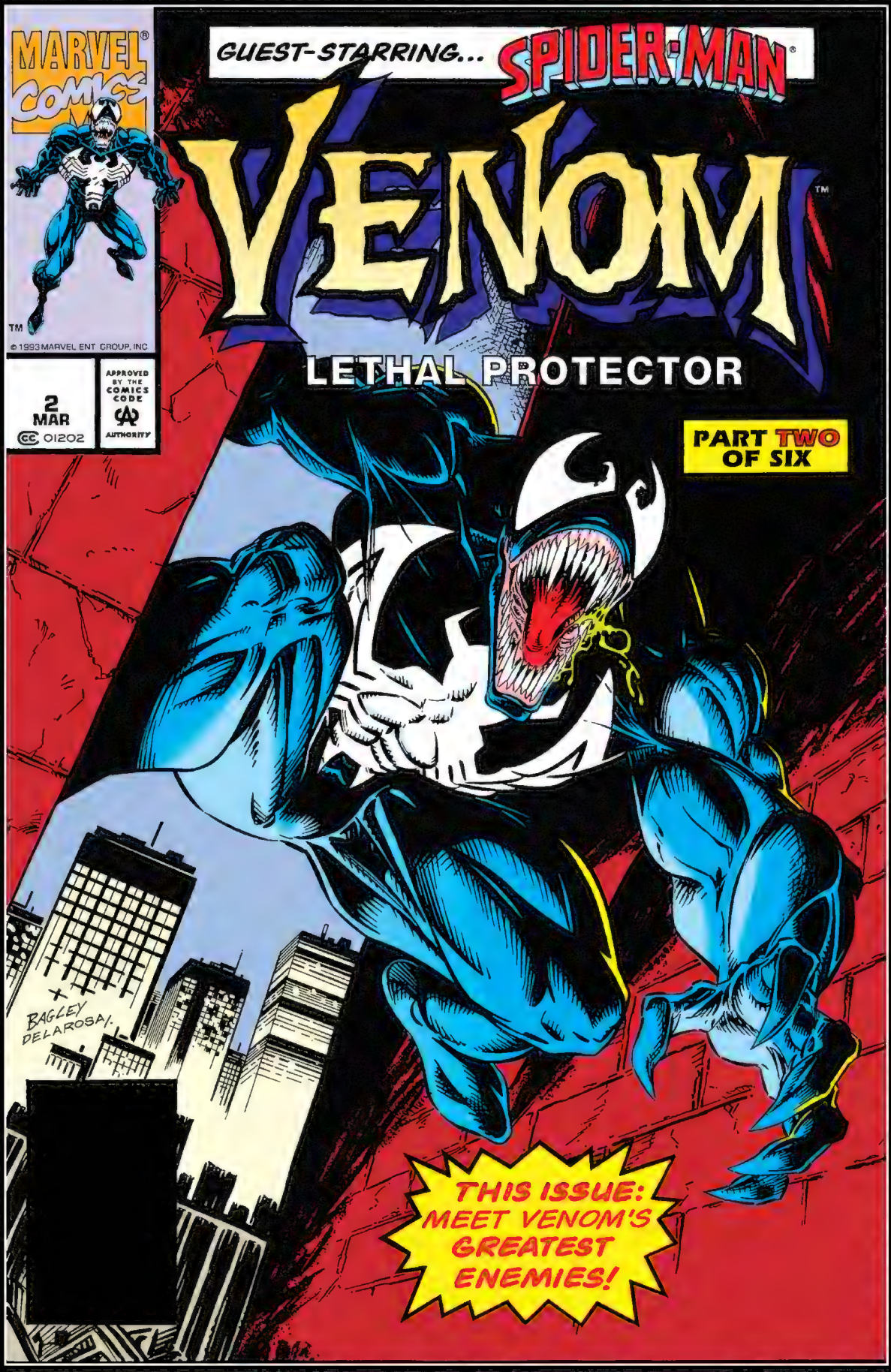
WHY IS ANYONE'S GUESS! BUT HE SEEMS DETERMINED TO --
Shh! THAT SOUND! SOMETHING'S IN THE TUNNEL AHEAD!
WHAT THE--?
Oh, LORD -- DIGGERS!
"TREECE MACHINES, WITH MORE HIRELINGS INSIDE! HE SENDS THEM INTO THE TUNNELS TO LOOK FOR US --
"-- BUT THEY'VE NEVER FOUND US BEFORE!"
GET BEHIND ME! WALK BACK THE WAY WE CAME!
MAYBE IF WE DON'T SEEM TO BE A THREAT, THEY WON'T--
GHFF!


FINALLY GOT ONE O' YOU SCRUFFY LEECHES!
NOW MY DIAMOND DRILLS ARE GONNA GUT YA LIKE A TROUT!
CHANK
ACTUALLY, WE PREFER FLOUNDER!
HOLY CRIPES! WH-WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT?!
GHAAAA!
I DUNNO! BUT THIS LASER CUTTER'S REALLY MAKIN' THE STUFF ON HIS BACK SQUIRM!
-SNIFF...-
BARBECUE?
I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING FISH!
NEVER MIND...
...SNACK-TIME'S OVER!
LET'S PLAY!
PUNCH

RISH
TAG -- YOU'RE IT!
WHAT? TIRED ALREADY?
THEN MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU TAKE A NICE, LONG --
NAP!
BLACK STUFF OO-OOZIN' IN THROUGH THE CRACKS!
HARLAN! H-H-HELP ME!
MAYBE THIS SOUND SHOVEL CAN--
WHOA!
SONIC BEAM'S SURE DOIN' SOME-THIN'!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN AGONY!
THEN HOLD 'IM DOWN! I'LL MASH THIS WISECRACKIN' SCUMBALL --
--INTO PULP!

WHU--?
HEY!
FLOOR CRUMBLIN'! WE'RE BOTH GOIN' THROUGH!
TOO DARK! C-CAN'T SEE WHERE WE'RE --
WHOONF!
HARLAN? C-CAN YA STILL HEAR ME?
DIGGER SUIT CUSHIONED MY IMPACT!
LOOKS LIKE THAT BLACK GOOP DID THE SAME FOR SMART-MOUTH!
BUT HE'S WOBBLY! TOO BUZZED TO FIGHT BACK!
I'M GONNA DIG THIS BUM A NEW NOSTRIL!
YOU VINDICTIVE MORON! LOOK AROUND!
THIS IS BIGGER THAN YOUR PETTY BLOOD-LUST!
WE DIDN'T JUST FALL THROUGH SOME ROTTED TUNNEL FLOOR--
Oh... MY... GOD!


--WE'VE FALLEN THROUGH TIME!!
NEXT MONTH >
VENOM'S NEW LIFE GETS WEIRDER... AND MORE DANGEROUS! NEW ALLIES, NEW DEADLY ENEMIES AND SPIDER-MAN TOO, AS "LETHAL PROTECTOR" CONTINUES!


MARVEL COMICS
GUEST-STARRING... SPIDER-MAN
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
PART TWO OF SIX
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAGLEY
DELAROSA
THIS ISSUE: MEET VENOM'S GREATEST ENEMIES!

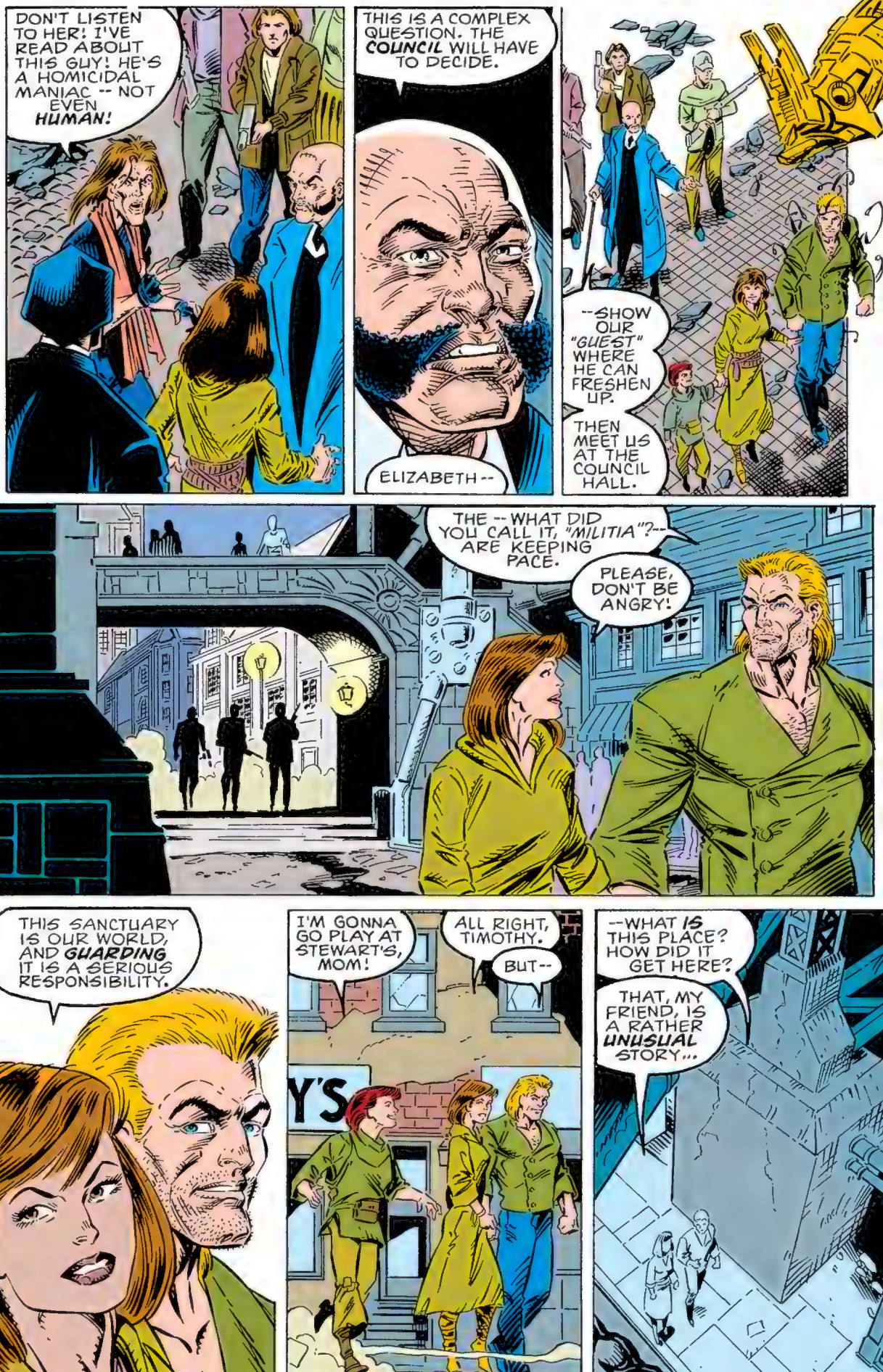
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
PART 2
WAR AND PIECES!
SAN FRANCISCO.
SORT OF.
I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE FREAK WITH THE LIVIN' COSTUME WAS RIGHT!
WE'VE FALLEN THROUGH TIME!*
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER
MARK BAGLEY PENCILER
De La ROSA & MILGROM INKERS
MARIE JAVINS COLORIST
STARKINGS & PARKER LETTERERS
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
*SEE LAST ISSUE FOR DETAILS -- DANNY.

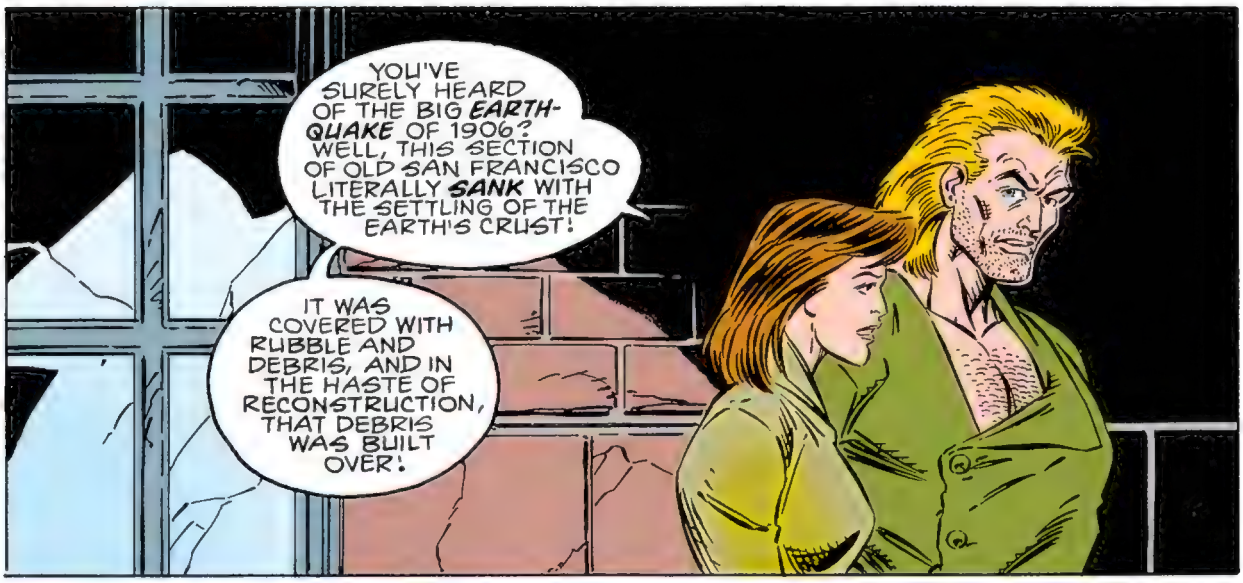
PLEASE! D-DON'T HURT HIM!
LET 'IM GO!
Huh?
THE HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM THE TUNNELS! IF THEY'RE HERE, THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY IN -- WHICH MEANS I'M STILL IN THE PRESENT!
MAN, I FEEL A LOT BETTER--
--NOW?
YOUR HESITATION GAVE US TIME TO RECOVER!
YOU NO LONGER FACE EDDIE BROCK AND A SOUND-STUNNED SYMBIOTE!
NOW YOU MUST DEAL WITH --
VENOM!
OOOOO! BEING MELODRAMATIC GIVES US SUCH A TINGLE! WE --
Eh?

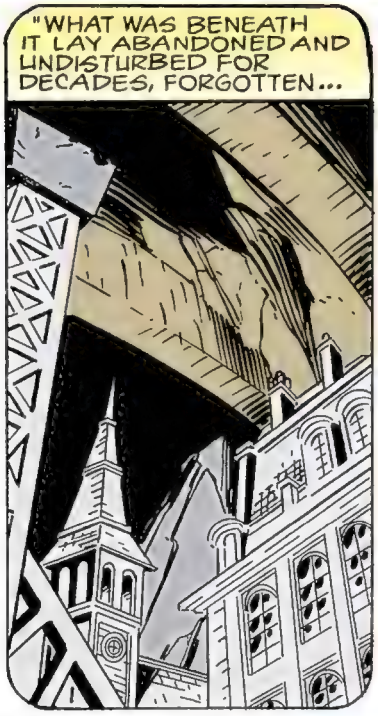
THE SECOND DIGGER? GOOD?
NOW WE HAVE ONE FOR EACH FIST!
THOOM
INCREDIBLE! AN ENTIRE CITY, RIGHT BELOW THE TUNNELS WE'VE BEEN EXCAVATING!
MUST BE WHAT MR. TREECE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR!
MILITIA, SPLIT UP!
FLANK 'EM AND OPEN FIRE!
WHA -- A BUNCH O' GUYS WITH ANTIQUE WEAPONS!
THE LOCAL POLICE?
NO PROBLEMO!
SPLEATH!

MURDERER!
HE WAS ONLY PROTECTING HEARTH AND HOME!
SO LET YOUR PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME!
AND SINCE YOUR PARTNER MADE NO ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THAT HEINOUS ACT--
--LET HIM SHARE THE JUST RETRI-BUTION!

KRISH
Heh.
WE CAN TAKE 'IM, ETHAN!
AIM STEADY, BOYS, AND--
NO!
HE MAY LOOK LIKE A MONSTER, BUT HE'S NOT!
IN THE PARK, NEAR THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE, WE WERE ATTACKED BY TREECE'S THUGS!
THEY WOULD HAVE BEATEN US, MAYBE EVEN KILLED US, BUT --
--HE STOPPED THEM!
WE SERVE AND PROTECT, MA'AM!


DON'T LISTEN TO HER! I'VE READ ABOUT THIS GUY! HE'S A HOMICIDAL MANIAC -- NOT EVEN HUMAN!
THIS IS A COMPLEX QUESTION. THE COUNCIL WILL HAVE TO DECIDE.
ELIZABETH --
--SHOW OUR "GUEST" WHERE HE CAN FRESHEN UP.
THEN MEET US AT THE COUNCIL HALL.
THE -- WHAT DID YOU CALL IT, "MILITIA"? -- ARE KEEPING PACE.
PLEASE, DON'T BE ANGRY!
THIS SANCTUARY IS OUR WORLD, AND GUARDING IT IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.
I'M GONNA GO PLAY AT STEWART'S, MOM!
ALL RIGHT, TIMOTHY.
BUT --
--WHAT IS THIS PLACE? HOW DID IT GET HERE?
THAT, MY FRIEND, IS A RATHER UNUSUAL STORY...

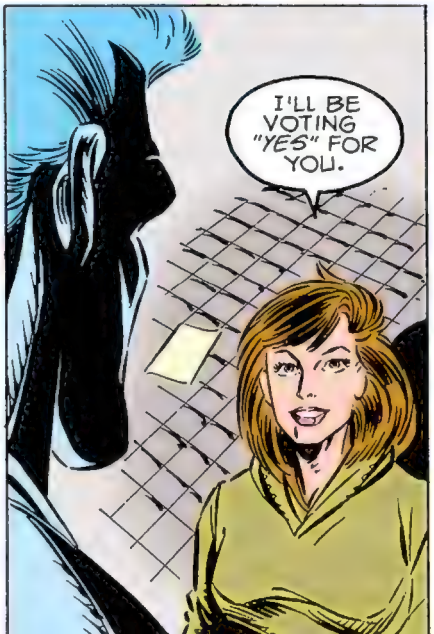

YOU'VE SURELY HEARD OF THE BIG *EARTH-QUAKE* OF 1906? WELL, THIS SECTION OF OLD SAN FRANCISCO LITERALLY *SANK* WITH THE SETTLING OF THE EARTH'S CRUST!
IT WAS COVERED WITH RUBBLE AND DEBRIS, AND IN THE HASTE OF RECONSTRUCTION, THAT DEBRIS WAS BUILT OVER!

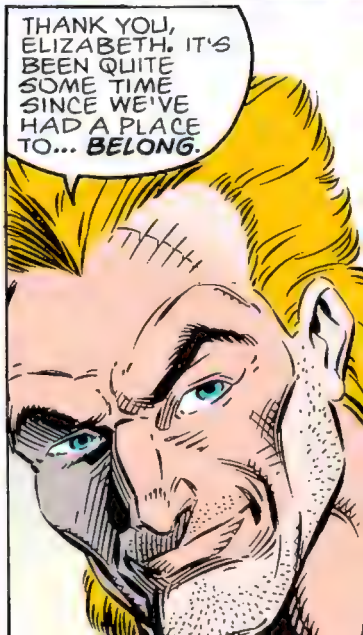

"WHAT WAS BENEATH IT LAY ABANDONED AND UNDISTURBED FOR DECADES, FORGOTTEN...

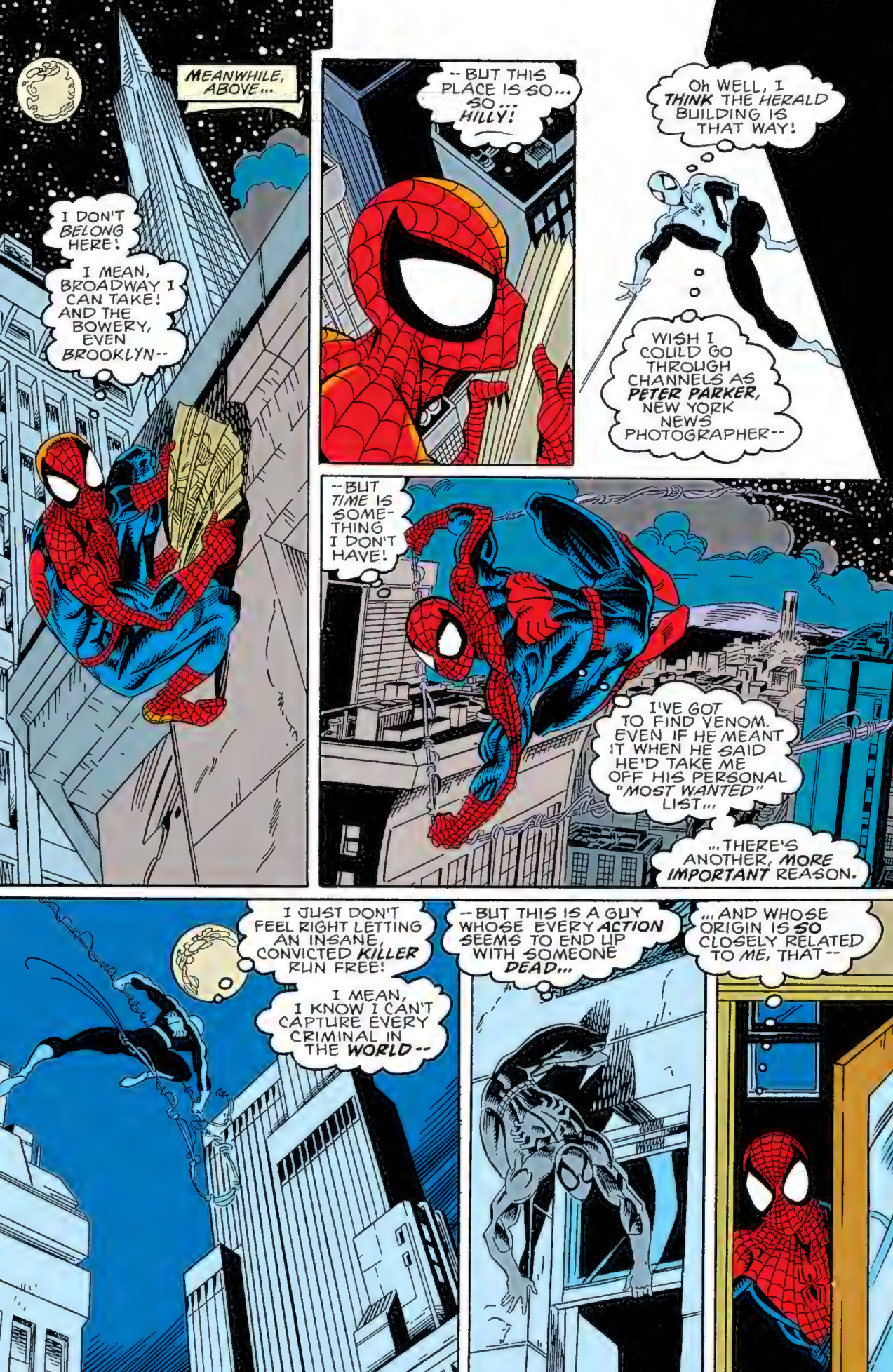
"... UNTIL A VAGRANT SEEKING SHELTER IN THE TUNNELS *DISCOVERED* IT SOME YEARS AGO. *THAT* WAS THE BEGINNING."

SINCE THEN, WE'VE DEVELOPED OUR OWN SOCIETY; WE'RE HAPPY HERE.
WE HAVE *HOMES*, AND FREE-DOM.

BUT OUR HAVEN *MUST* BE SAFE-GUARDED AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD *EXPLOIT* IT.
WHICH IS WHY WE'RE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHO'S ALLOWED TO *STAY*.


I'LL BE VOTING *"YES"* FOR YOU.

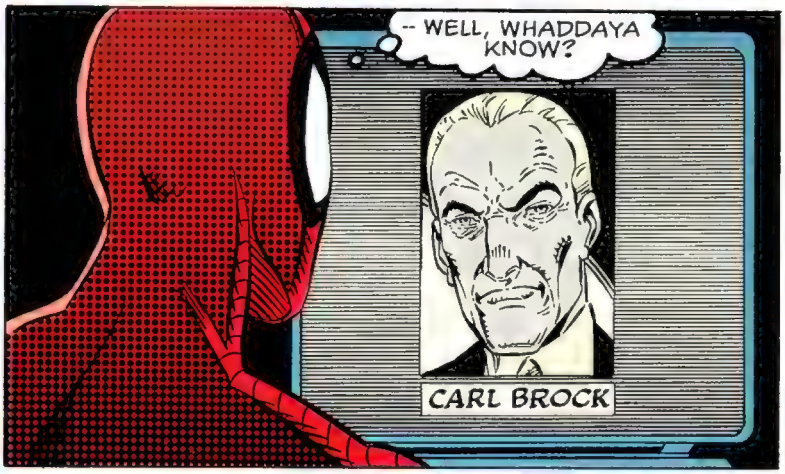

THANK YOU, ELIZABETH. IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD A PLACE TO... *BELONG*.

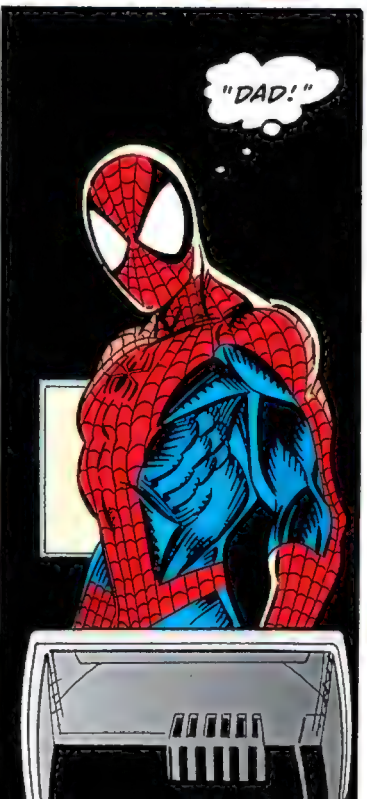

MEANWHILE, ABOVE...
I DON'T BELONG HERE!
I MEAN, BROADWAY I CAN TAKE! AND THE BOWERY, EVEN BROOKLYN--
-- BUT THIS PLACE IS SO... SO... HILLY!
Oh WELL, I THINK THE HERALD BUILDING IS THAT WAY!
WISH I COULD GO THROUGH CHANNELS AS PETER PARKER, NEW YORK NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER--
-- BUT TIME IS SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE!
I'VE GOT TO FIND VENOM. EVEN IF HE MEANT IT WHEN HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME OFF HIS PERSONAL "MOST WANTED" LIST...
...THERE'S ANOTHER, MORE IMPORTANT REASON.
I JUST DON'T FEEL RIGHT LETTING AN INSANE, CONVICTED KILLER RUN FREE!
I MEAN, I KNOW I CAN'T CAPTURE EVERY CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD --
-- BUT THIS IS A GUY WHOSE EVERY ACTION SEEMS TO END UP WITH SOMEONE DEAD...
...AND WHOSE ORIGIN IS SO CLOSELY RELATED TO ME, THAT --

--Whoop!
GOTTA BE CARE-FUL...

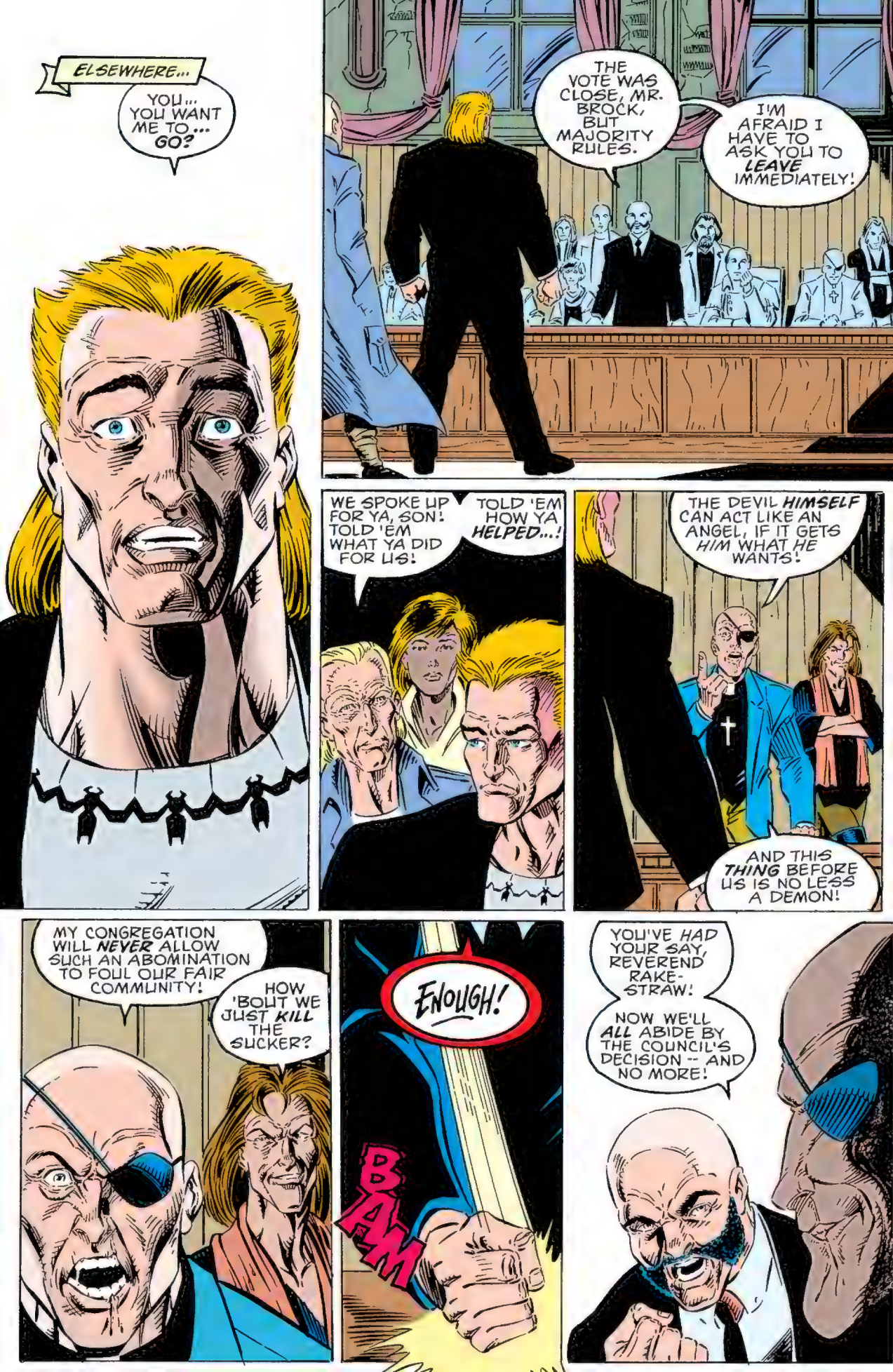
MORGUE
...CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I'M HERE FOR!

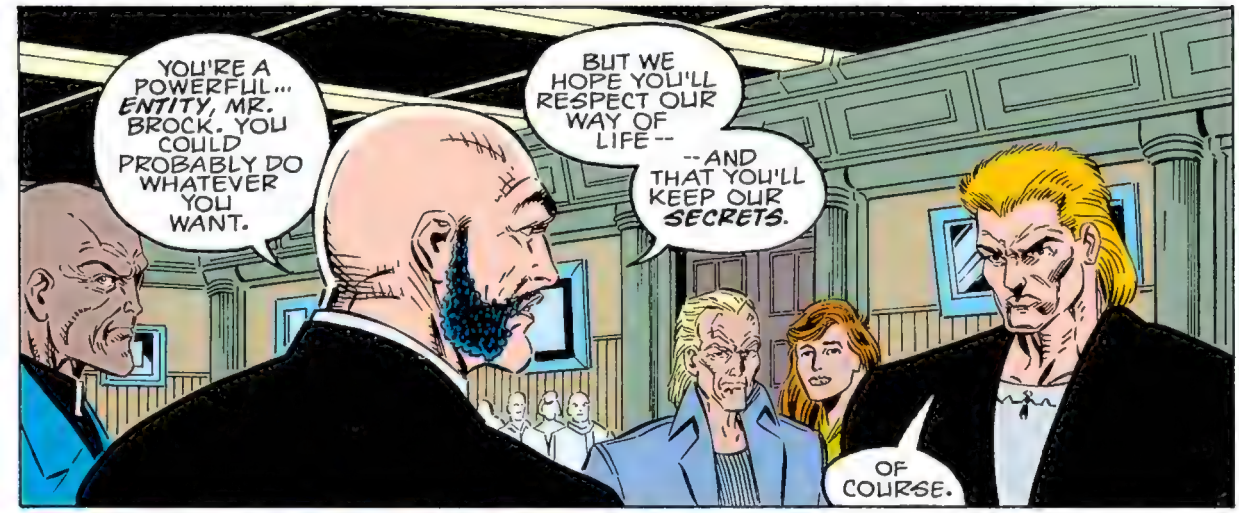
IN NEW YORK, I GOT A LINE ON VENOM BY LOOKING INTO EDDIE BROCK'S PAST!* SO MAYBE BY CROSS-CHECKING THE LOCAL PAPER'S REFERENCE FILES, I CAN --
* IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375,-- DANNY


-- WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW?
CARL BROCK

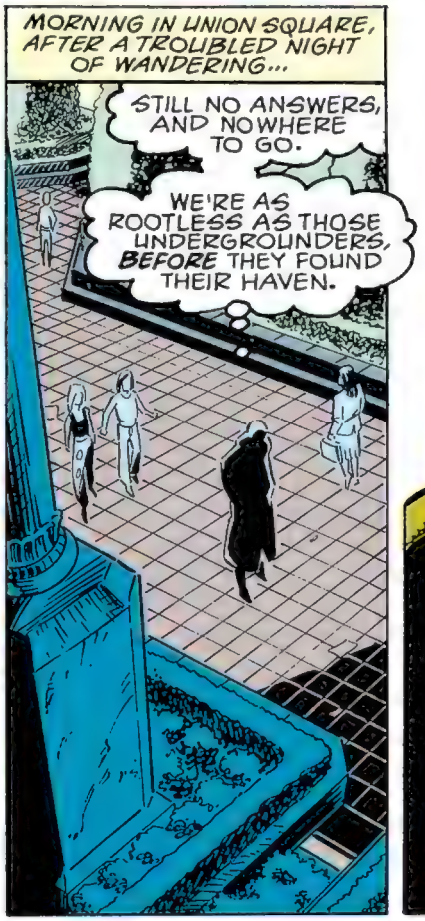

"DAD!"

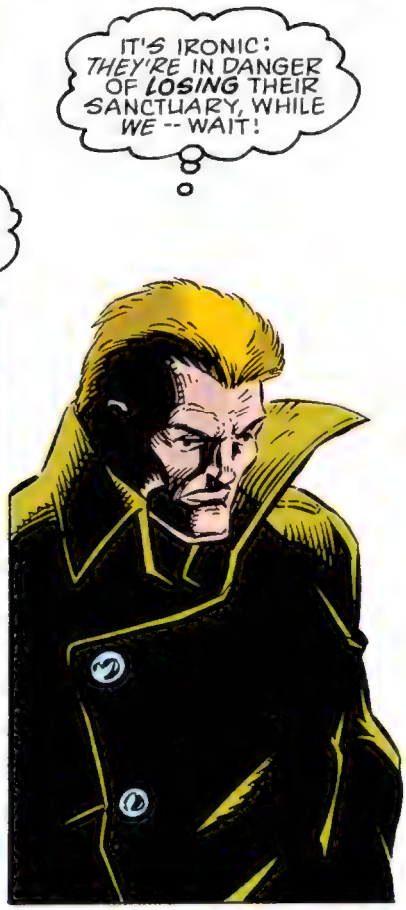
BUT I SWEAR, IF THE OLD GUY GREETS ME WITH "I WANT TO EAT YOUR BRAIN"--
-- I'M GOIN' HOME!

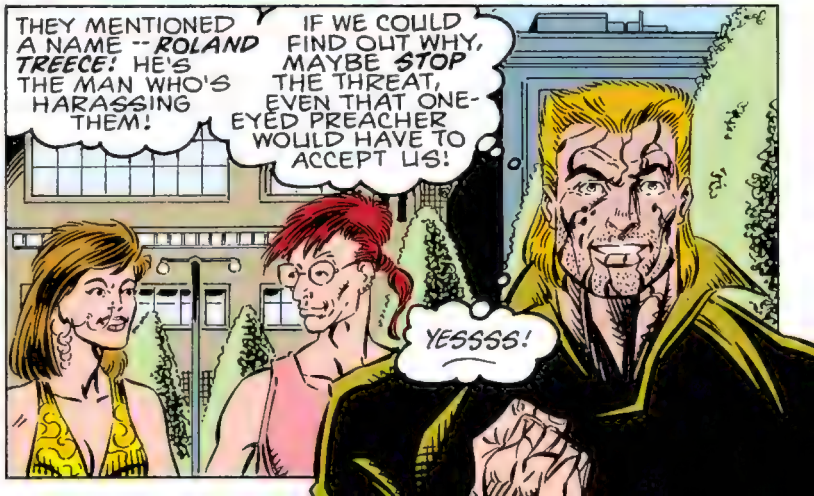

ELSEWHERE...
YOU... YOU WANT ME TO... GO?
THE VOTE WAS CLOSE, MR. BROCK, BUT MAJORITY RULES.
I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
WE SPOKE UP FOR YA, SON! TOLD 'EM WHAT YA DID FOR US!
TOLD 'EM HOW YA HELPED...!
THE DEVIL HIMSELF CAN ACT LIKE AN ANGEL, IF IT GETS HIM WHAT HE WANTS!
AND THIS THING BEFORE US IS NO LESS A DEMON!
MY CONGREGATION WILL NEVER ALLOW SUCH AN ABOMINATION TO FOUL OUR FAIR COMMUNITY!
HOW 'BOUT WE JUST KILL THE SUCKER?
ENOUGH!
BAM
YOU'VE HAD YOUR SAY, REVEREND RAKE-STRAW!
NOW WE'LL ALL ABIDE BY THE COUNCIL'S DECISION -- AND NO MORE!


YOU'RE A POWERFUL... ENTITY, MR. BROCK. YOU COULD PROBABLY DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
BUT WE HOPE YOU'LL RESPECT OUR WAY OF LIFE--
--AND THAT YOU'LL KEEP OUR SECRETS.
OF COURSE.

THE BIBLE SAYS TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK...
JUST ASK THE GOOD REVEREND!

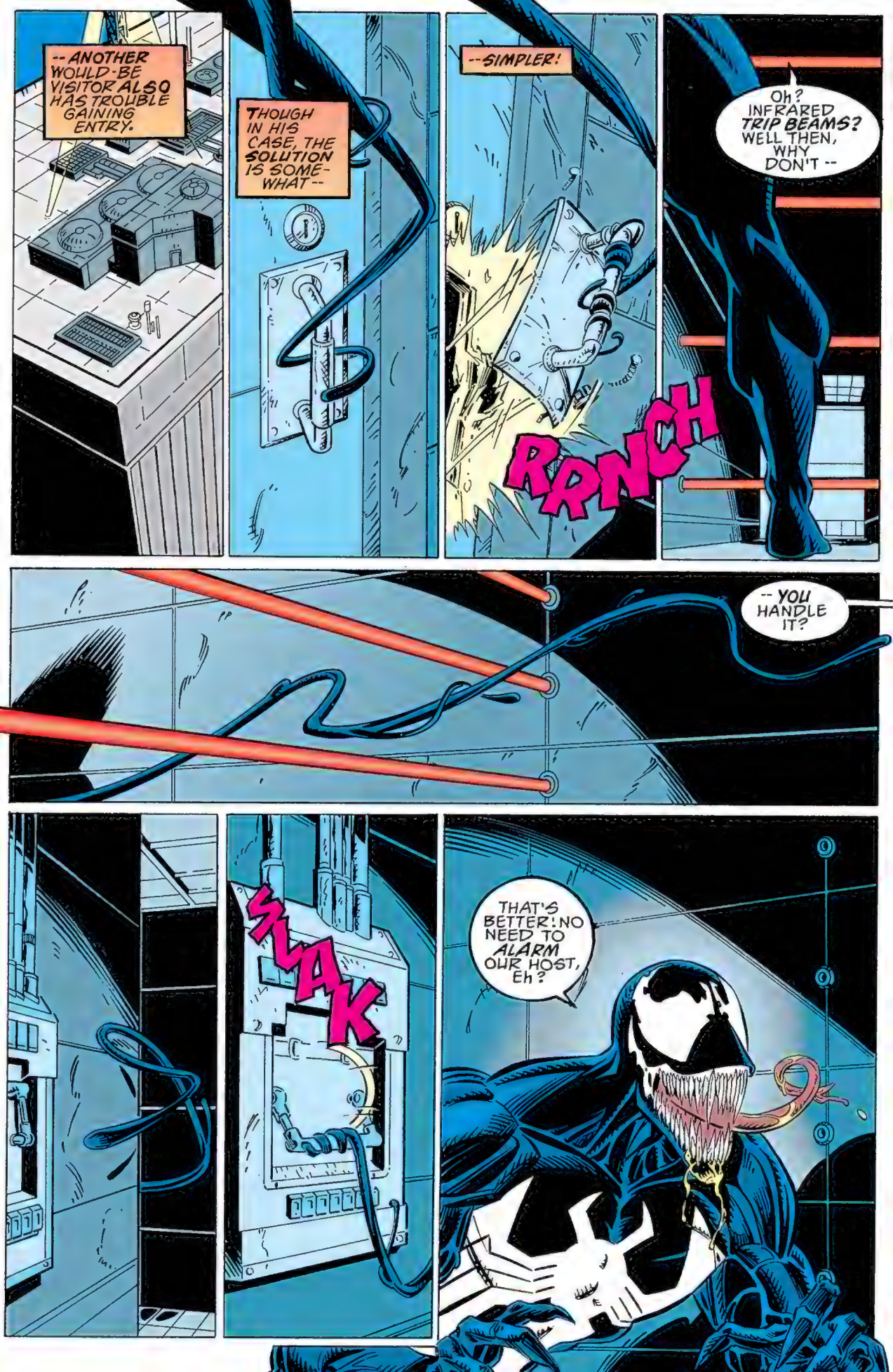

MORNING IN UNION SQUARE, AFTER A TROUBLED NIGHT OF WANDERING...
STILL NO ANSWERS, AND NOWHERE TO GO.
WE'RE AS ROOTLESS AS THOSE UNDERGROUNDERS, BEFORE THEY FOUND THEIR HAVEN.

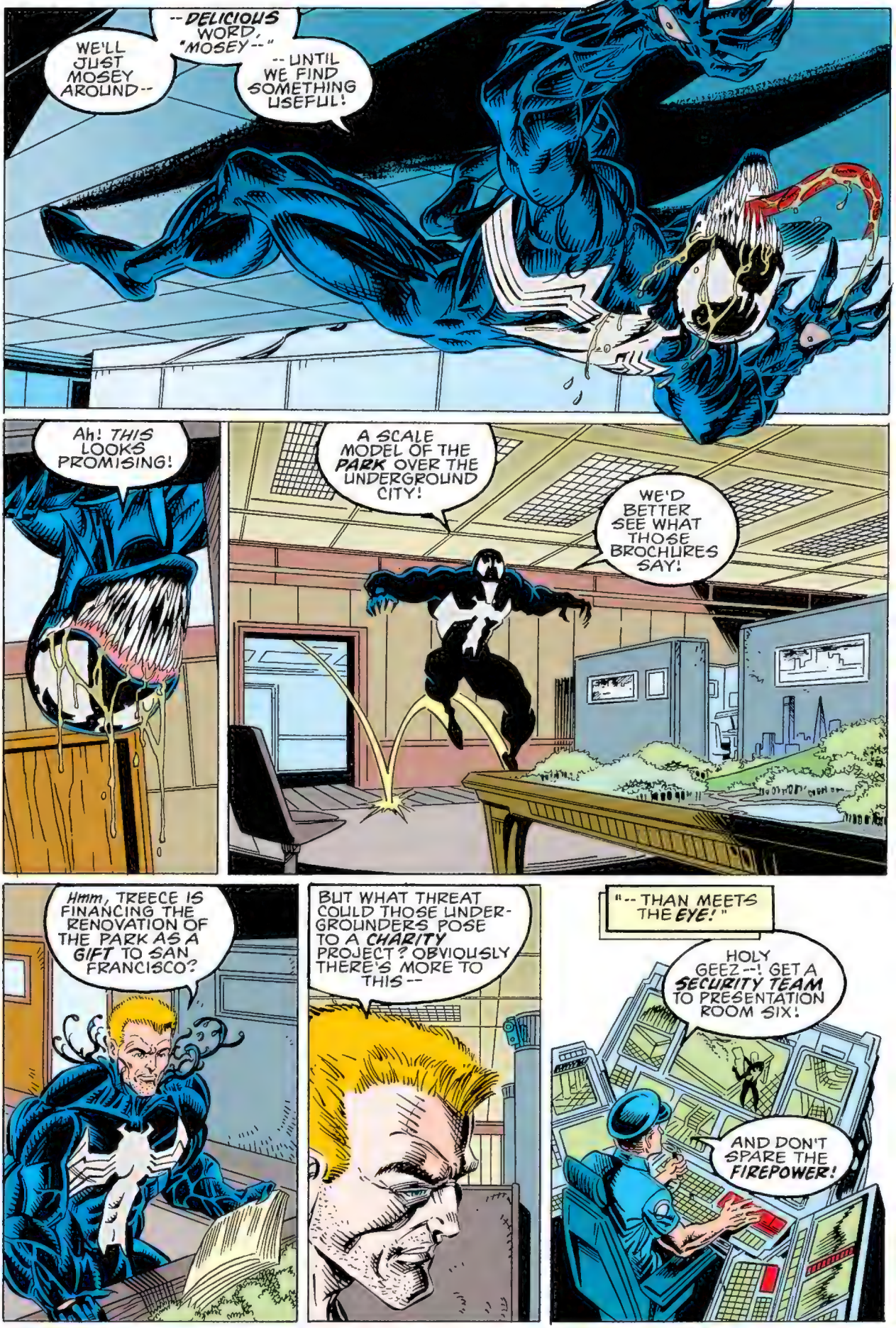

IT'S IRONIC: THEY'RE IN DANGER OF LOSING THEIR SANCTUARY, WHILE WE -- WAIT!


THEY MENTIONED A NAME -- ROLAND TREECE! HE'S THE MAN WHO'S HARASSING THEM!
IF WE COULD FIND OUT WHY, MAYBE STOP THE THREAT, EVEN THAT ONE-EYED PREACHER WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT US!
YESSSS!

HEY, TOMMY! WH-WHAT'S THAT GUY DOIN'?!
GEEZ, AUTUMN, TH-THAT'S NO "GUY..."
THAT'S--
PLIP
VENOM!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, IN ONE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS...
YEP.
THIS IS THE ADDRESS I GOT FROM THE HERALD FILES, ALL RIGHT!
TOK TOK
YES?
GOOD MORNING! DO I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING CARL BROCK?
YES.
EDDIE BROCK'S FATHER?
SLAM
OOOO-KAY..!
WHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AT THE REGIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS OF TREECE INTERNATIONAL--


--ANOTHER WOULD-BE VISITOR ALSO HAS TROUBLE GAINING ENTRY.
THOUGH IN HIS CASE, THE SOLUTION IS SOME-WHAT--
--SIMPLER!
RRNCH
Oh? INFRARED TRIP BEAMS? WELL THEN, WHY DON'T --
-- YOU HANDLE IT?
SLAK
THAT'S BETTER! NO NEED TO ALARM OUR HOST, Eh?


WE'LL JUST MOSEY AROUND--
--DELICIOUS WORD, "MOSEY--"
--UNTIL WE FIND SOMETHING USEFUL!
Ah! THIS LOOKS PROMISING!
A SCALE MODEL OF THE PARK OVER THE UNDERGROUND CITY!
WE'D BETTER SEE WHAT THOSE BROCHURES SAY!
Hmm, TREECE IS FINANCING THE RENOVATION OF THE PARK AS A GIFT TO SAN FRANCISCO?
BUT WHAT THREAT COULD THOSE UNDERGROUNDERS POSE TO A CHARITY PROJECT? OBVIOUSLY THERE'S MORE TO THIS--
"--THAN MEETS THE EYE!"
HOLY GEEZ--! GET A SECURITY TEAM TO PRESENTATION ROOM SIX!
AND DON'T SPARE THE FIREPOWER!

THERE HE IS!
TRAIL O' SLIME LED RIGHT TO 'IM!
WE DON'T KNOW IF YOUR EMPLOYER IS TRULY EVIL!
THEREFORE, IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY TO KILL YOU.
YOU MAY LEAVE.
CHAKATAKATAKATAKATOW
THP
THP
THP
HNFG
KEESH

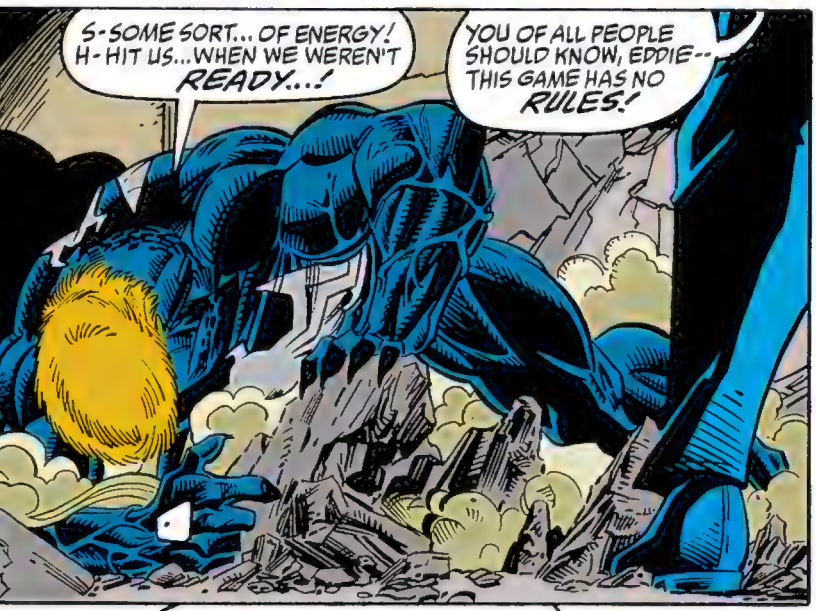
BOSS IS GONNA BE TICKED AT THE DAMAGE TO HIS DISPLAY, BUT HE'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE WE -- Huh? TH-THIS GUY'S STILL MOVIN?!
AMMUNITION IS EXPENSIVE! HERE, WHY DON'T YOU USE YOURS--
--AGAIN?!
TH-THAT BLACK STUFF CAUGHT THE BULLETS! P-POPPIN' 'EM BACK OUT!
NOW IT'S OUR TURN!

REPRISE: A STATELY HOME IN A PROPER NEIGHBORHOOD--
--WHERE A GRANITE-FACED MAN GRUMBLES AS HE NEARS THE ENTRANCE TO AN UPSTAIRS STUDY.
WHY MUST THE WORLD CONTINUALLY INTRUDE? WHY CAN'T PEOPLE JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE...?
MR. BROCK?
WHA--?
WE HAVE TO TALK!
BUT AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF TREECE INTERNATIONAL--

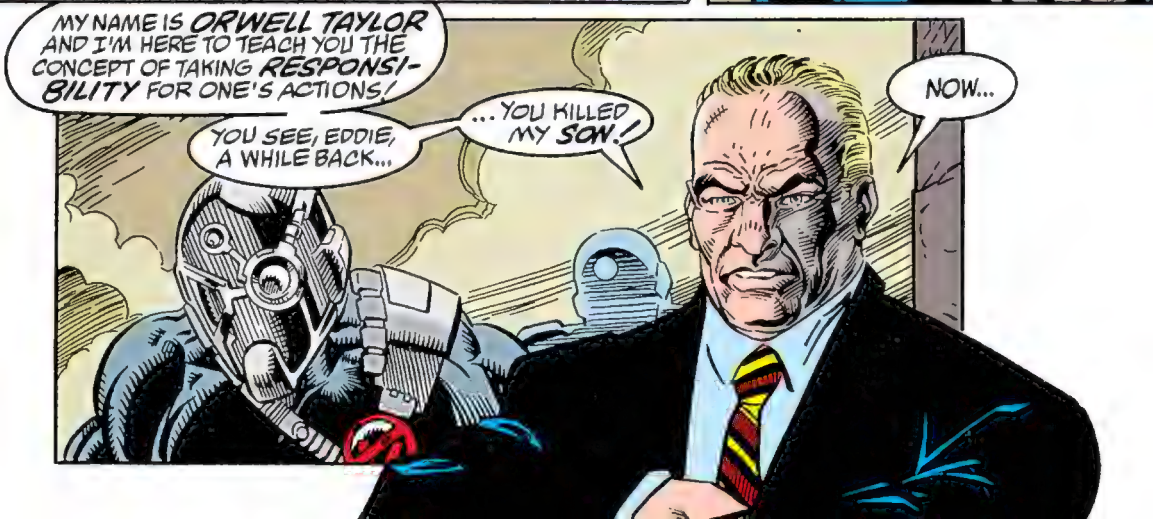
--ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!
BYE-BYE!
MORE GUARDS?
HOW DELIGHTFUL!
BUT WE REALLY THINK WE'VE HAD ENOUGH FUN FOR ONE DAY!
PERHAPS WE'LL COME BACK AND PLAY AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME! IN FACT--
KRISH

-- WE CAN PRACTICALLY GUARANTEE IT!
WHILE, AMONG THE POLICE AND MEDIA VEHICLES THAT HAVE GATHERED BELOW...
TARGET IN SIGHT!
TRACKING PROCEDURES INITIATED! SQUAD--
--CONVERGE ON MY COORDINATES!
YES, THE PUZZLE DOES REMAIN VAGUE--
-- BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE A FEW MORE PIECES!
TREECE IS UP TO NO GOOD, THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN! WE NEED TO DISCOVER HIS HIDDEN MOTIVES! AND THEN WE CAN SQUASH HIM LIKE... LIKE...
...A SPIDER!
THAT'S HIM!
DO IT!
WHAT--

UNNNHHH--!

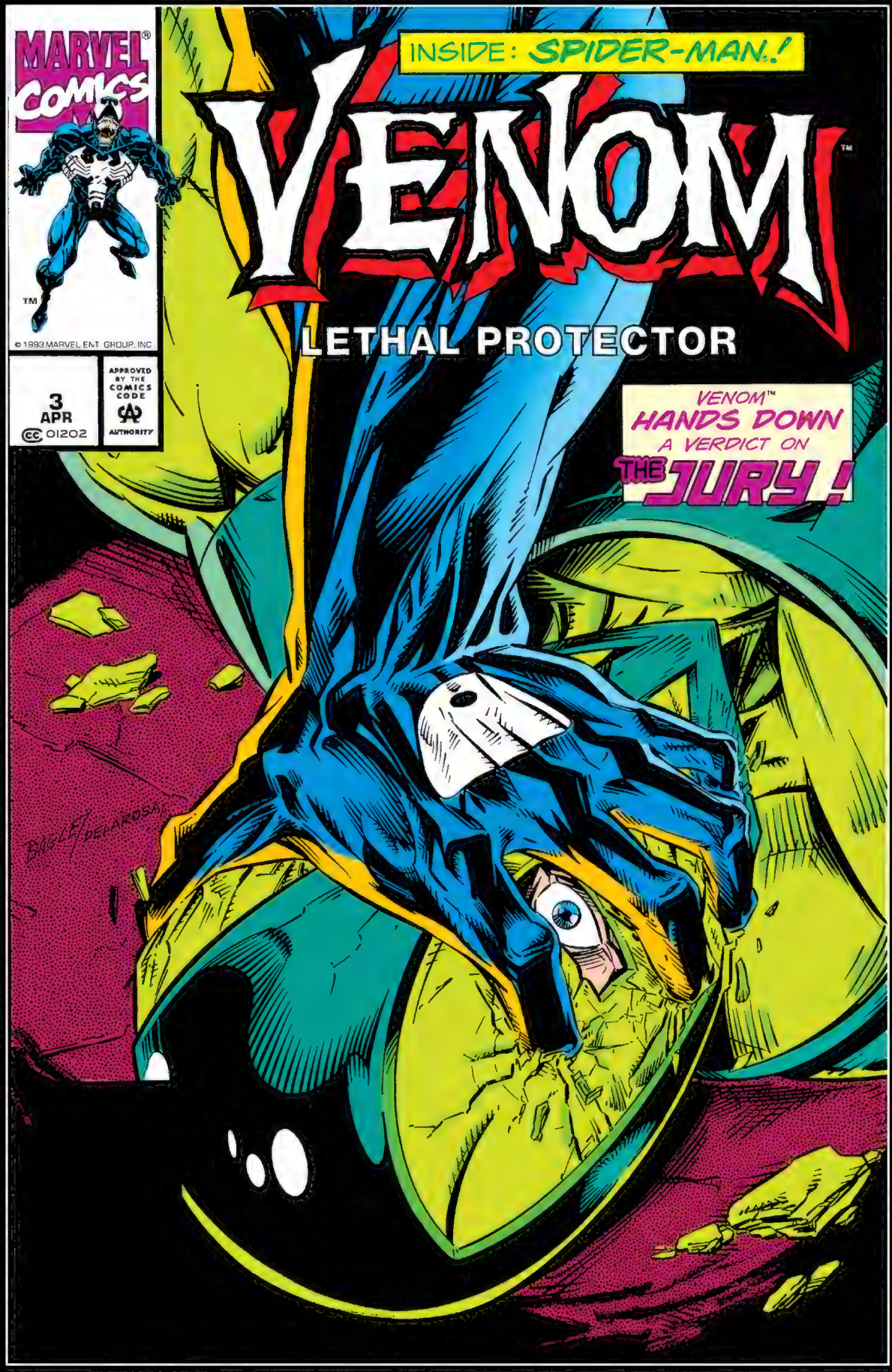

S-SOME SORT... OF ENERGY! H-HIT US...WHEN WE WEREN'T READY...!
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW, EDDIE-- THIS GAME HAS NO RULES!

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?


MY NAME IS ORWELL TAYLOR AND I'M HERE TO TEACH YOU THE CONCEPT OF TAKING RESPONSI-BILITY FOR ONE'S ACTIONS!
YOU SEE, EDDIE, A WHILE BACK...
...YOU KILLED MY SON.!
NOW...

...WE--THE JURY--ARE GOING TO KILL YOU!

NEXT ISSUE: VENOM VERSUS THE JURY! ROLAND TREECE MAKES HIS MOVE! PLUS: THE CHILDHOOD OF EDDIE BROCK! (OH, YEAH--SPIDEY'LL BE HERE, TOO!) DON'T MISS IT!


MARVEL COMICS
INSIDE: SPIDER-MAN!
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
VENOM™ HANDS DOWN A VERDICT ON THE JURY!
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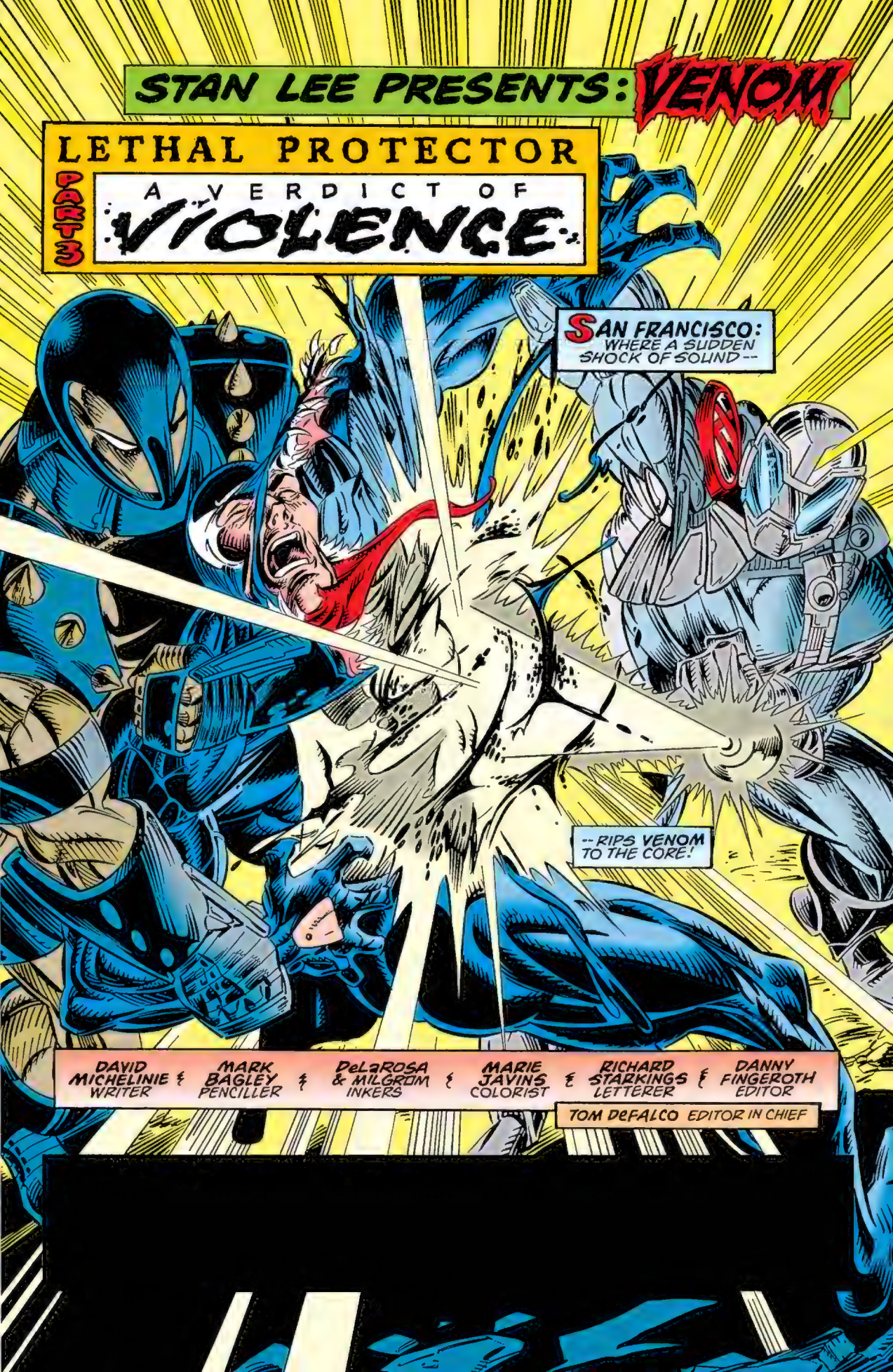
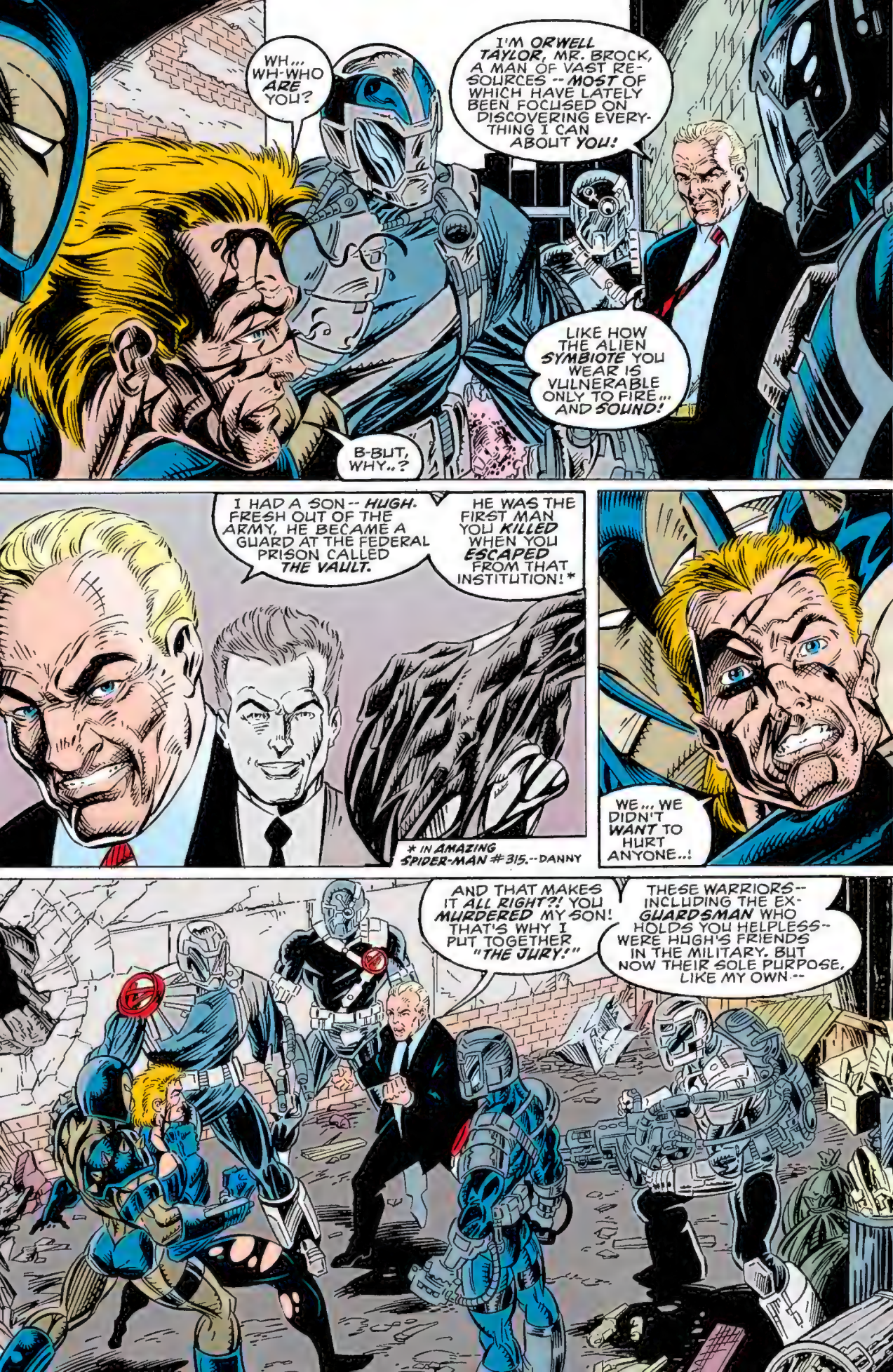
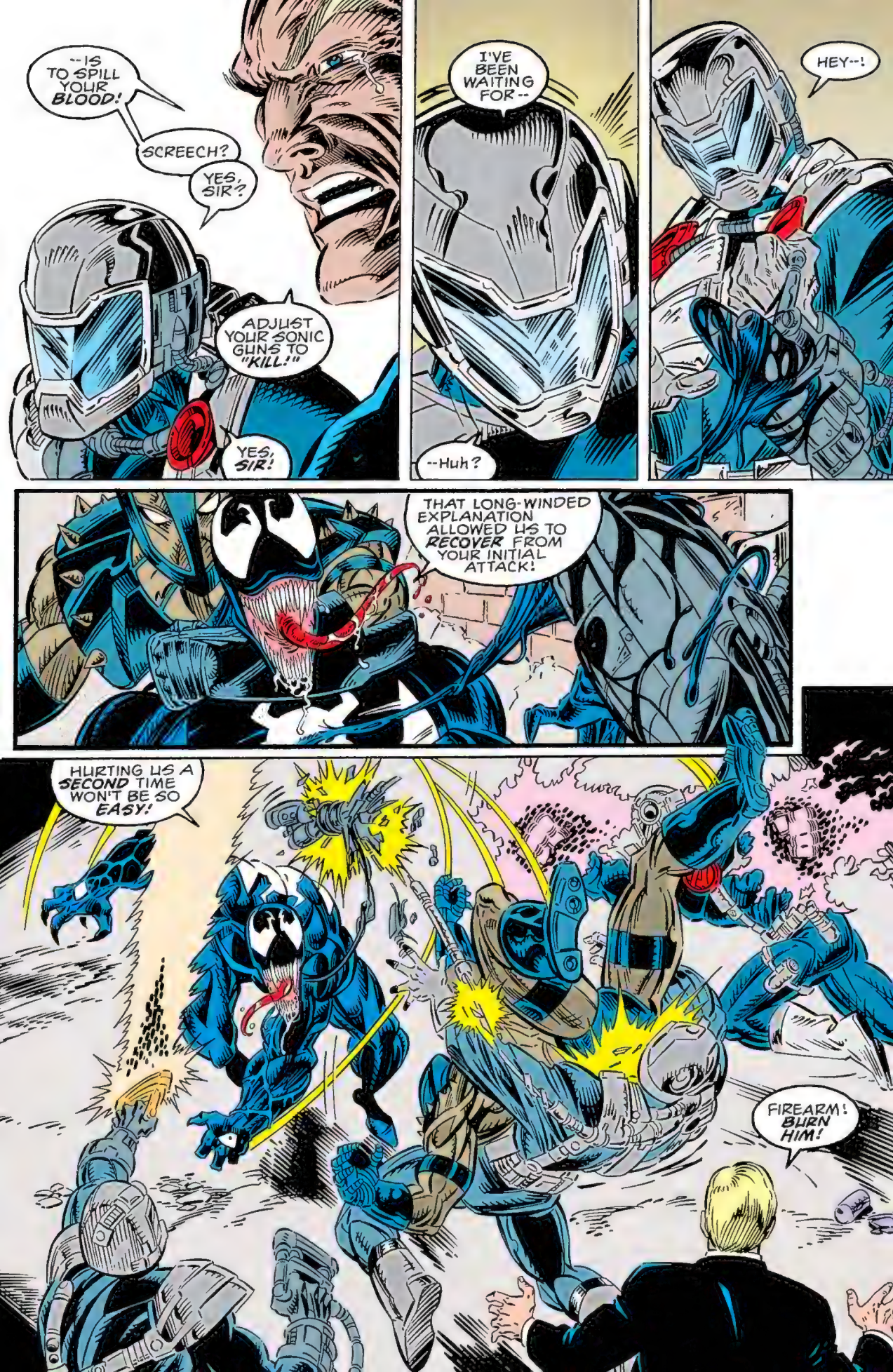
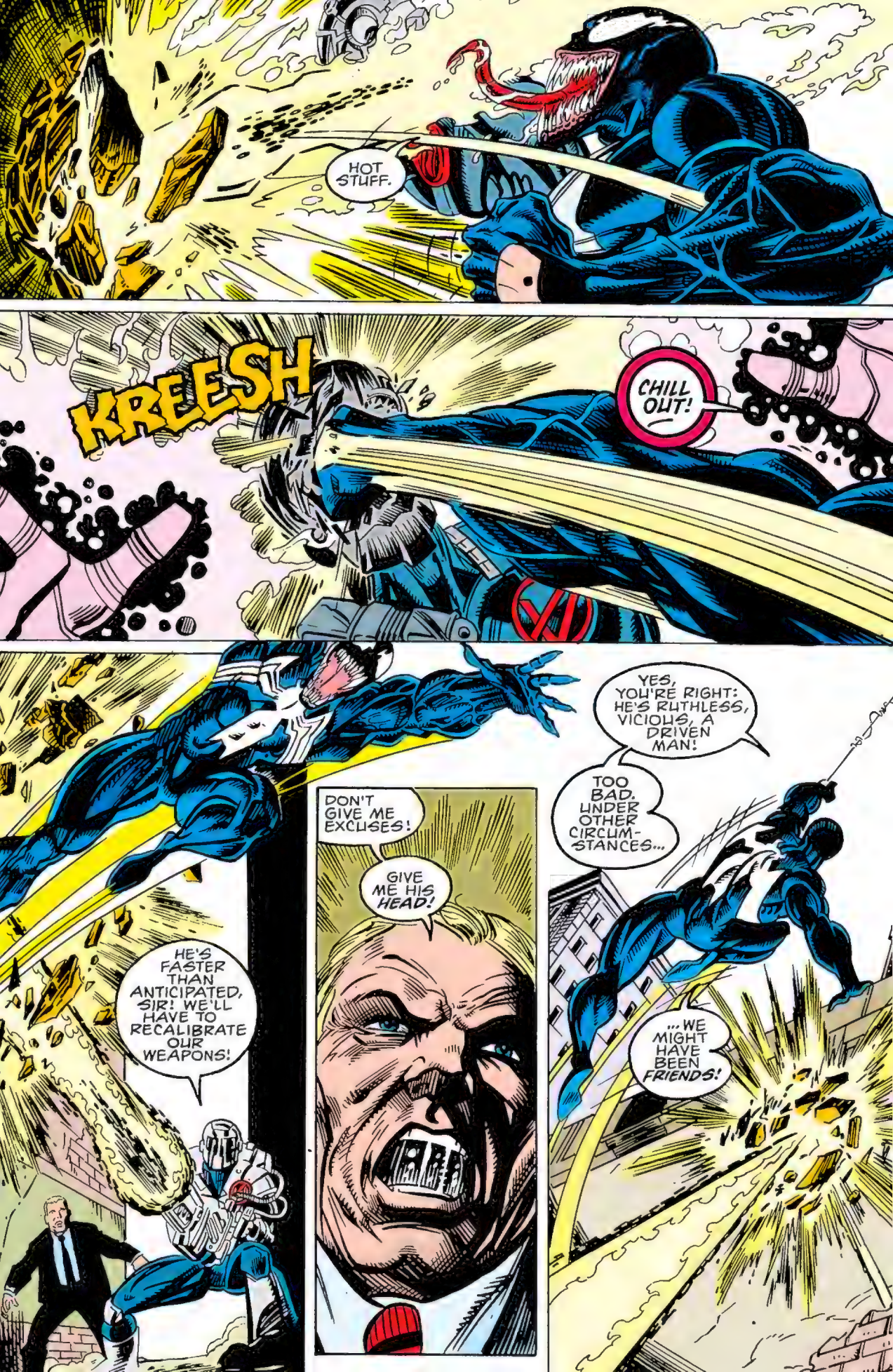
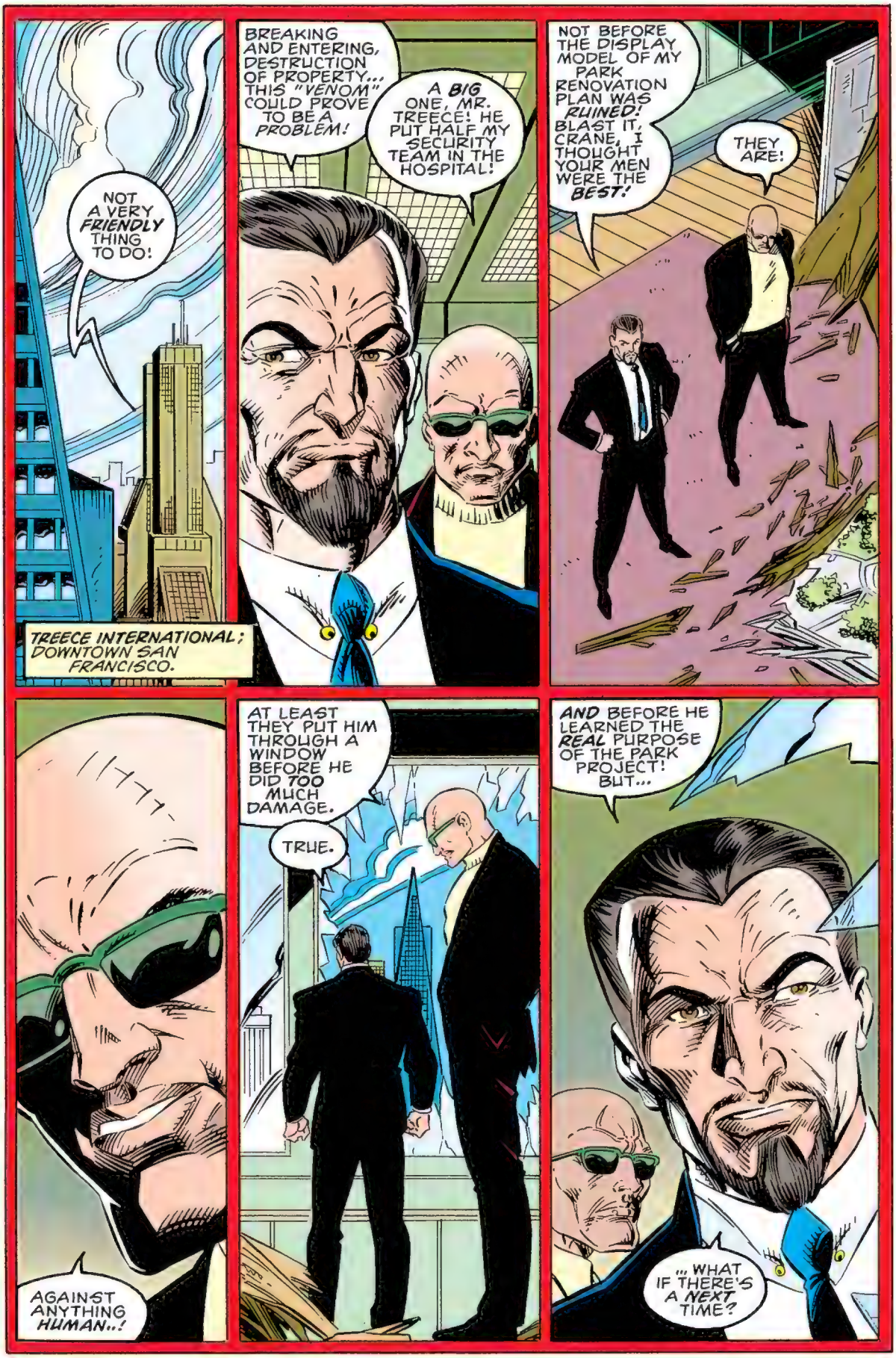
BAGLEY/DELAROSA

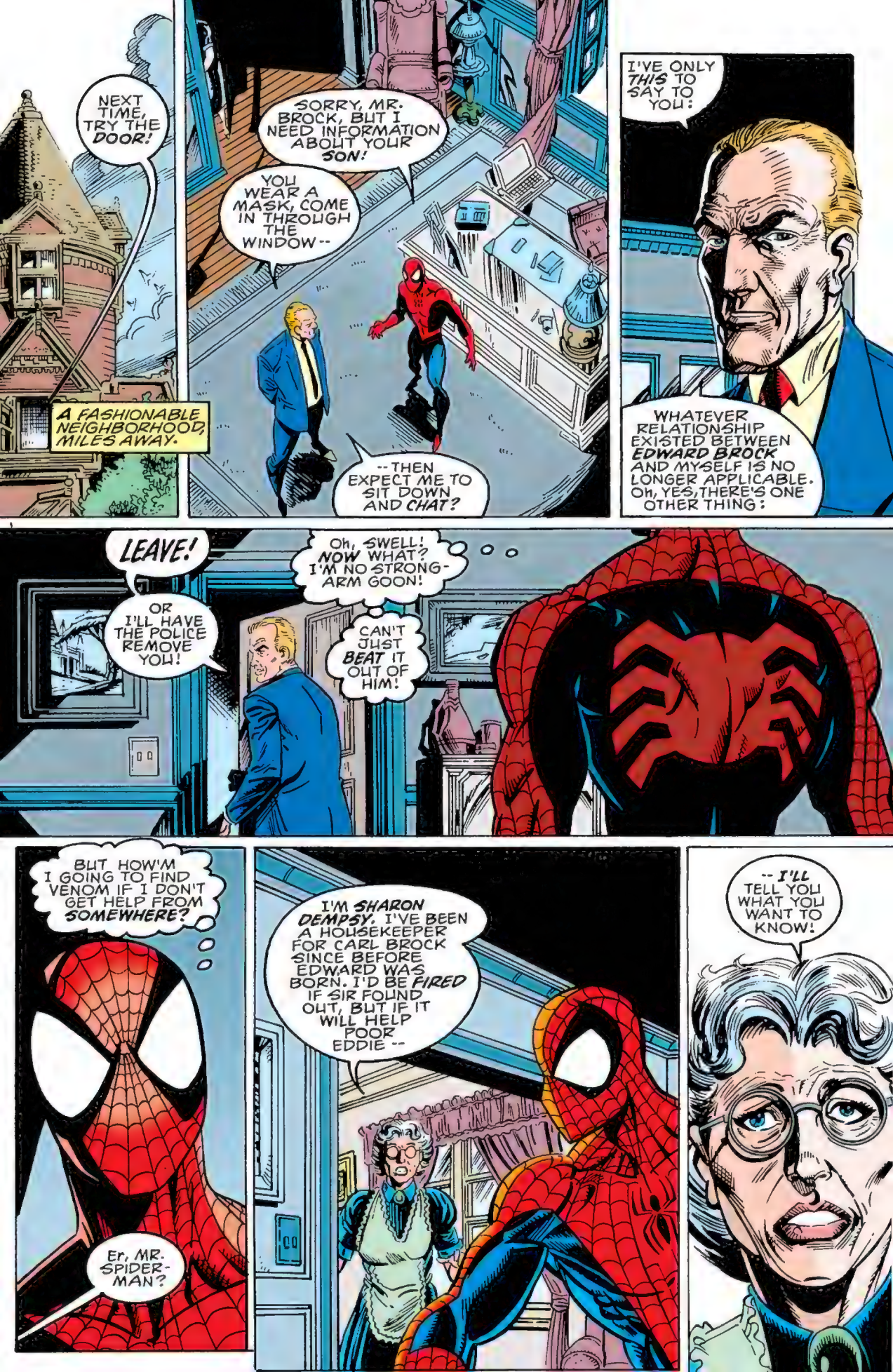

STAN LEE PRESENTS: VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
PART 3
A VERDICT OF VIOLENCE
SAN FRANCISCO: WHERE A SUDDEN SHOCK OF SOUND--
--RIPS VENOM TO THE CORE!
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER
MARK BAGLEY PENCILLER
DeLaROSA & MILGROM INKERS
MARIE JAVINS COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

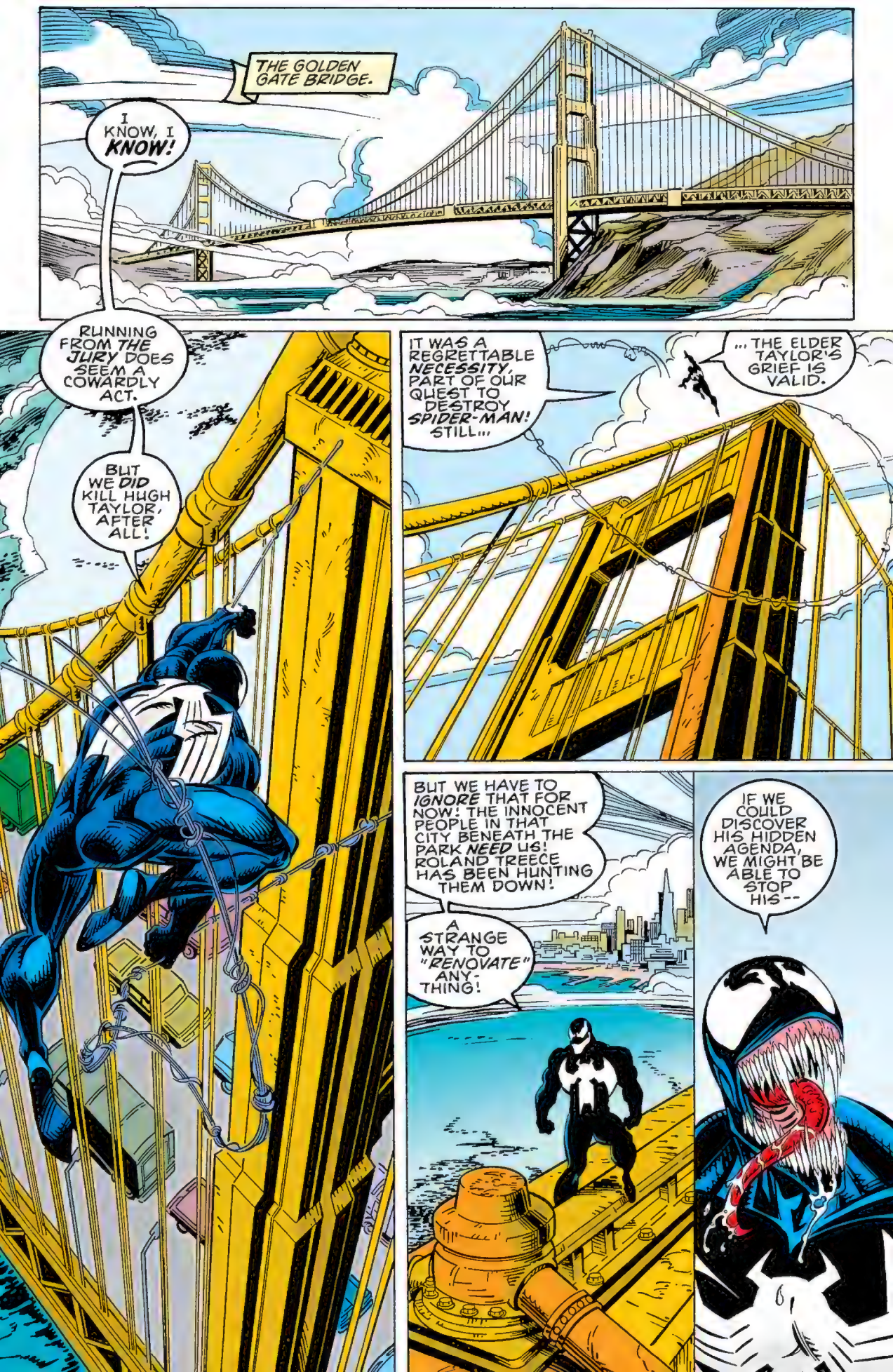

WH... WH-WHO ARE YOU?
I'M ORWELL TAYLOR, MR. BROCK, A MAN OF VAST RESOURCES -- MOST OF WHICH HAVE LATELY BEEN FOCUSED ON DISCOVERING EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT YOU!
LIKE HOW THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE YOU WEAR IS VULNERABLE ONLY TO FIRE... AND SOUND!
B-BUT, WHY..?
I HAD A SON -- HUGH. FRESH OUT OF THE ARMY, HE BECAME A GUARD AT THE FEDERAL PRISON CALLED THE VAULT.
HE WAS THE FIRST MAN YOU KILLED WHEN YOU ESCAPED FROM THAT INSTITUTION!*
* IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #315.--DANNY
WE... WE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE..!
AND THAT MAKES IT ALL RIGHT?! YOU MURDERED MY SON! THAT'S WHY I PUT TOGETHER "THE JURY!"
THESE WARRIORS -- INCLUDING THE EX-GUARDSMAN WHO HOLDS YOU HELPLESS -- WERE HUGH'S FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY. BUT NOW THEIR SOLE PURPOSE, LIKE MY OWN --

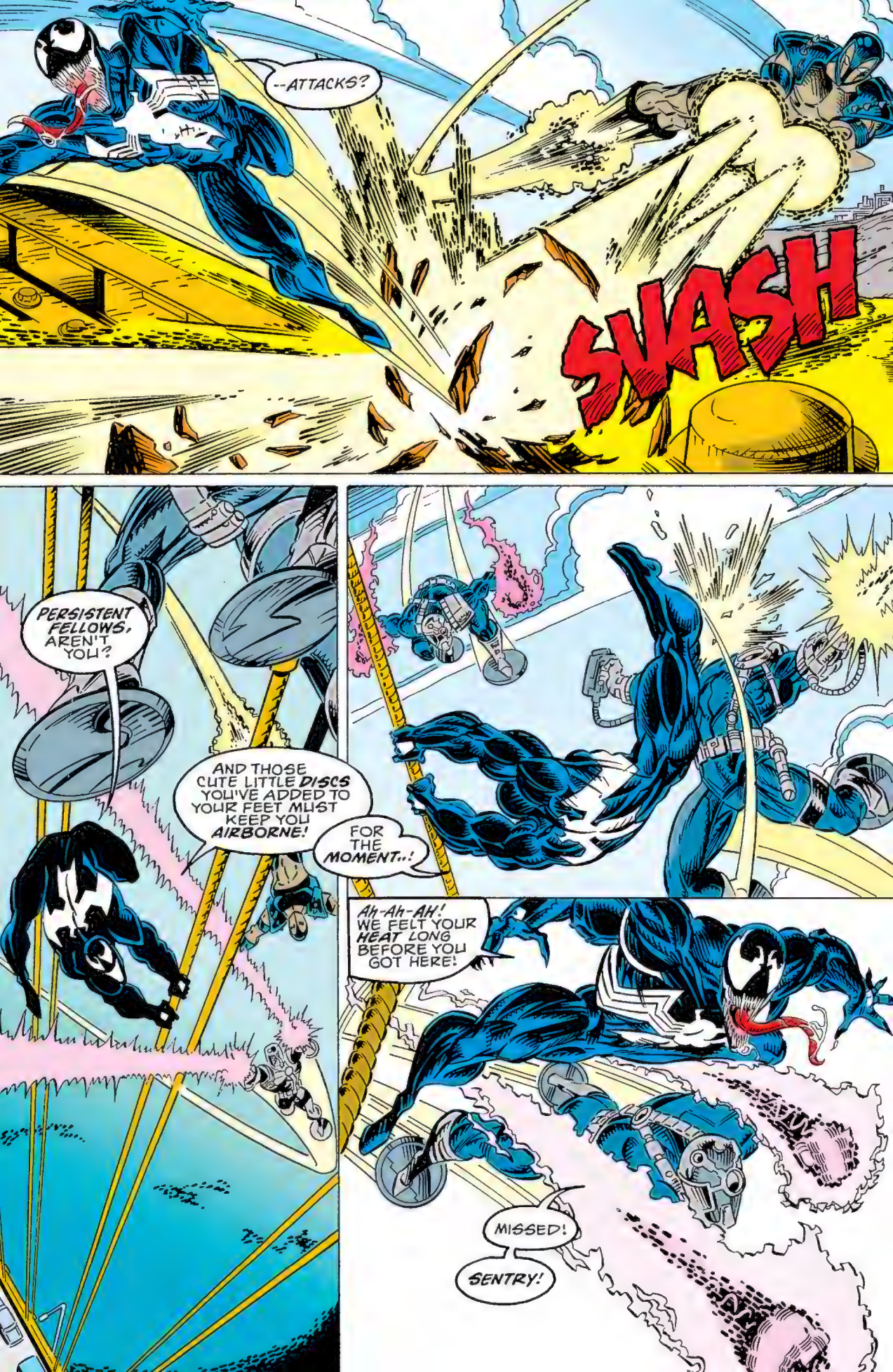

--IS TO SPILL YOUR BLOOD!
SCREECH?
YES, SIR?
ADJUST YOUR SONIC GUNS TO "KILL!"
YES, SIR!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--
--Huh?
HEY--!
THAT LONG-WINDED EXPLANATION ALLOWED US TO RECOVER FROM YOUR INITIAL ATTACK!
HURTING US A SECOND TIME WON'T BE SO EASY!
FIREARM! BURN HIM!


HOT STUFF.
KREESH
CHILL OUT!
HE'S FASTER THAN ANTICIPATED, SIR! WE'LL HAVE TO RECALIBRATE OUR WEAPONS!
DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES!
GIVE ME HIS HEAD!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT: HE'S RUTHLESS, VICIOUS, A DRIVEN MAN!
TOO BAD. UNDER OTHER CIRCUM-STANCES...
...WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRIENDS!

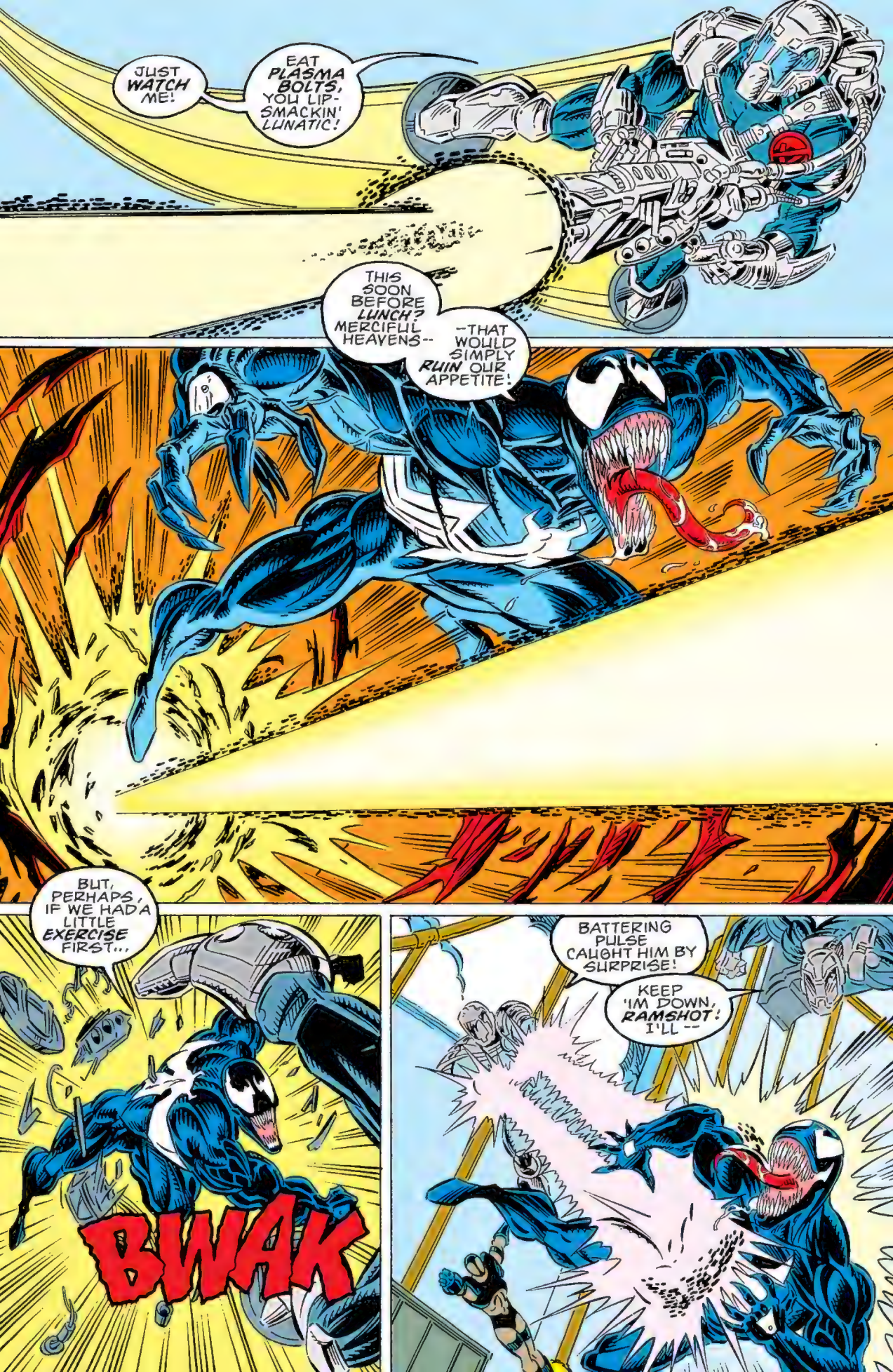

NOT A VERY FRIENDLY THING TO DO!
TREECE INTERNATIONAL; DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO.
BREAKING AND ENTERING, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY... THIS "VENOM" COULD PROVE TO BE A PROBLEM!
A BIG ONE, MR. TREECE! HE PUT HALF MY SECURITY TEAM IN THE HOSPITAL!
NOT BEFORE THE DISPLAY MODEL OF MY PARK RENOVATION PLAN WAS RUINED! BLAST IT, CRANE, I THOUGHT YOUR MEN WERE THE BEST!
THEY ARE!
AGAINST ANYTHING HUMAN..!
AT LEAST THEY PUT HIM THROUGH A WINDOW BEFORE HE DID TOO MUCH DAMAGE.
TRUE.
AND BEFORE HE LEARNED THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE PARK PROJECT! BUT...
...WHAT IF THERE'S A NEXT TIME?

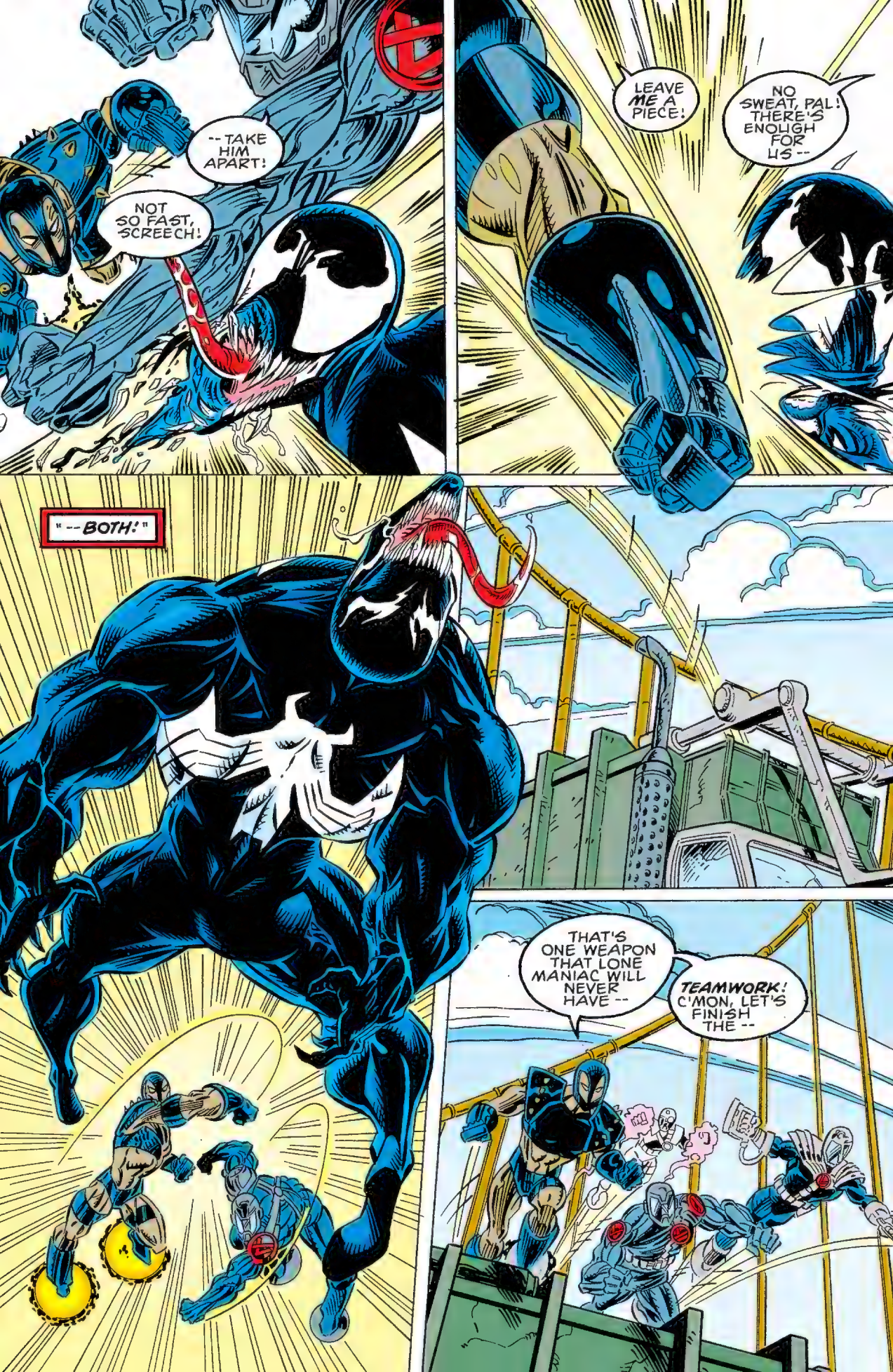

NEXT TIME, TRY THE DOOR!
A FASHIONABLE NEIGHBORHOOD, MILES AWAY.
SORRY, MR. BROCK, BUT I NEED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SON!
YOU WEAR A MASK, COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW--
--THEN EXPECT ME TO SIT DOWN AND CHAT?
I'VE ONLY THIS TO SAY TO YOU:
WHATEVER RELATIONSHIP EXISTED BETWEEN EDWARD BROCK AND MYSELF IS NO LONGER APPLICABLE. OH, YES, THERE'S ONE OTHER THING:
LEAVE!
OR I'LL HAVE THE POLICE REMOVE YOU!
Oh, SWELL! NOW WHAT? I'M NO STRONG-ARM GOON!
CAN'T JUST BEAT IT OUT OF HIM!
BUT HOW'M I GOING TO FIND VENOM IF I DON'T GET HELP FROM SOMEWHERE?
Er, MR. SPIDER-MAN?
I'M SHARON DEMPSY. I'VE BEEN A HOUSEKEEPER FOR CARL BROCK SINCE BEFORE EDWARD WAS BORN. I'D BE FIRED IF SIR FOUND OUT, BUT IF IT WILL HELP POOR EDDIE --
-- I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!


THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.
I KNOW, I KNOW!
RUNNING FROM THE JURY DOES SEEM A COWARDLY ACT.
BUT WE DID KILL HUGH TAYLOR, AFTER ALL!
IT WAS A REGRETTABLE NECESSITY, PART OF OUR QUEST TO DESTROY SPIDER-MAN! STILL...
... THE ELDER TAYLOR'S GRIEF IS VALID.
BUT WE HAVE TO IGNORE THAT FOR NOW! THE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THAT CITY BENEATH THE PARK NEED US! ROLAND TREECE HAS BEEN HUNTING THEM DOWN!
A STRANGE WAY TO "RENOVATE" ANY-THING!
IF WE COULD DISCOVER HIS HIDDEN AGENDA, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP HIS--

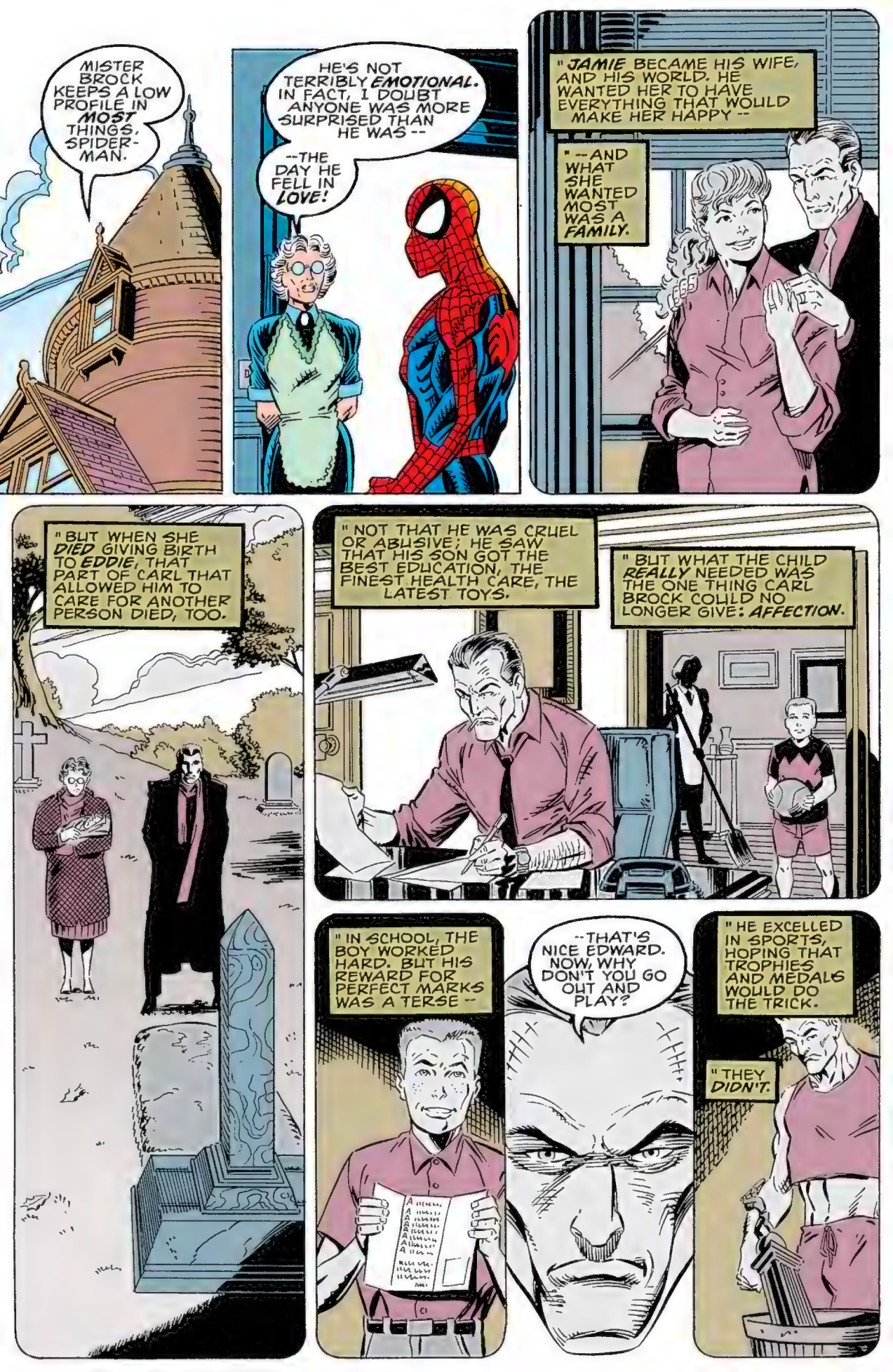

--ATTACKS?
SWASH
PERSISTENT FELLOWS, AREN'T YOU?
AND THOSE CUTE LITTLE DISCS YOU'VE ADDED TO YOUR FEET MUST KEEP YOU AIRBORNE!
FOR THE MOMENT..!
AH-AH-AH! WE FELT YOUR HEAT LONG BEFORE YOU GOT HERE!
MISSED!
SENTRY!

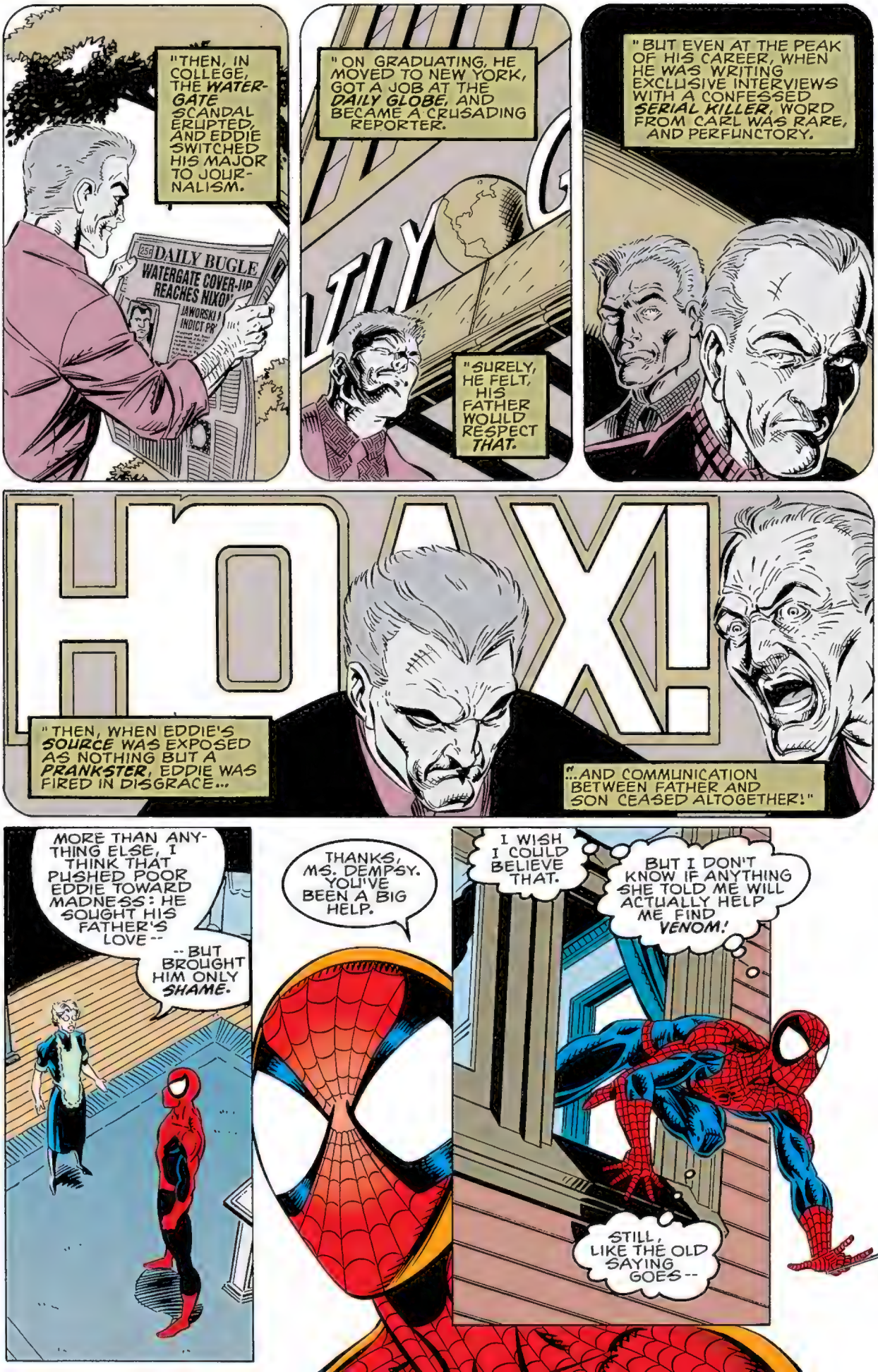
ON IT, FIREARM!
KWOOOMP
WHAT THE --?! TRAILER PULLIN' RIGHT! SWERVIN' ME STRAIGHT INTO --
--TRAFFIC!
SKREEE
KRANCH
SENTRY'S CLEAR, BUT THE TARGET'S STILL INSIDE!
CAN YOU TAKE 'IM, BOMBLAST?!


JUST WATCH ME!
EAT PLASMA BOLTS, YOU LIP-SMACKIN' LUNATIC!
THIS SOON BEFORE LUNCH? MERCIFUL HEAVENS--
--THAT WOULD SIMPLY RUIN OUR APPETITE!
BUT, PERHAPS, IF WE HAD A LITTLE EXERCISE FIRST...
BWAK
BATTERING PULSE CAUGHT HIM BY SURPRISE!
KEEP 'IM DOWN, RAMSHOT! I'LL --

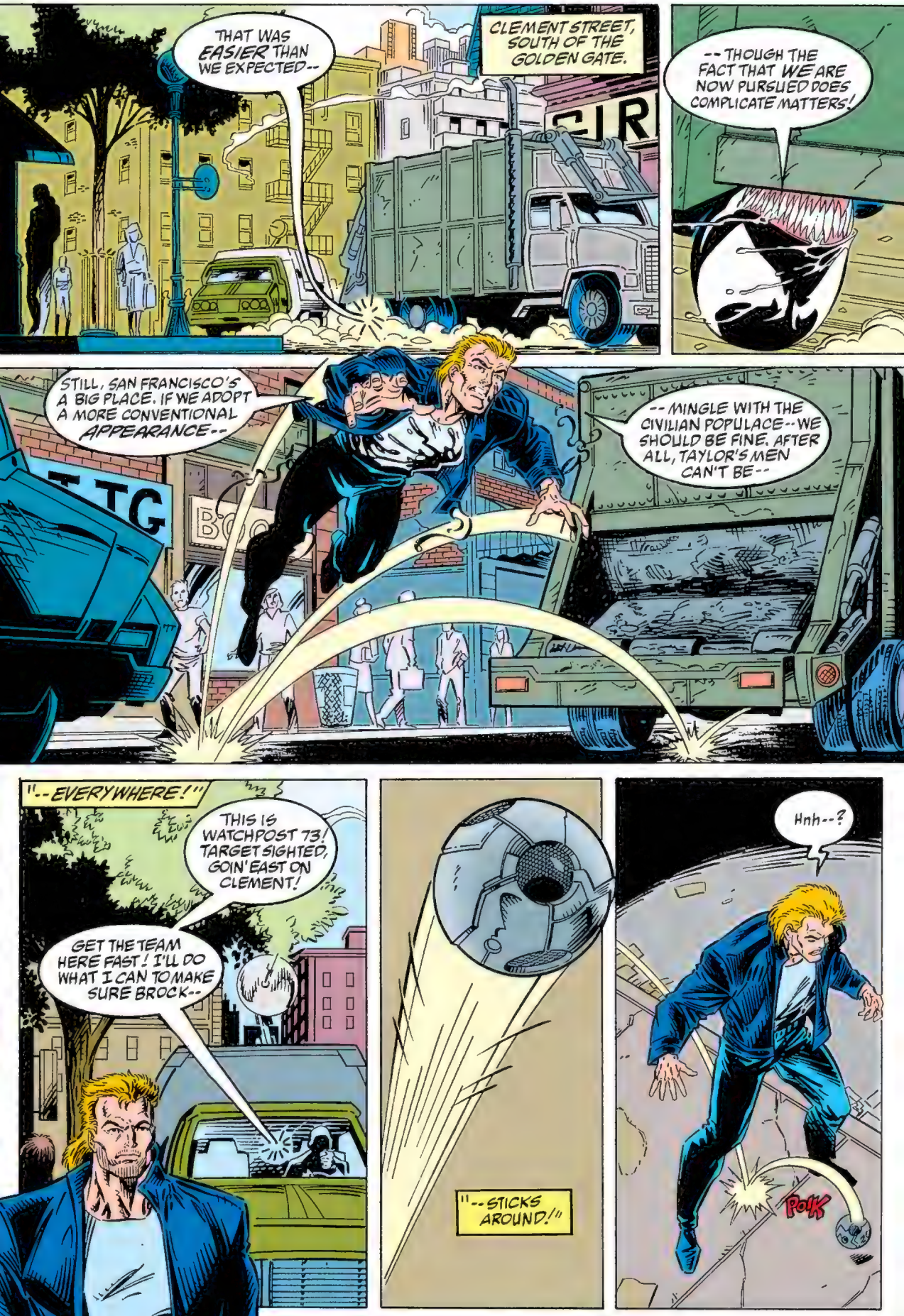

-- TAKE HIM APART!
NOT SO FAST, SCREECH!
LEAVE ME A PIECE!
NO SWEAT, PAL! THERE'S ENOUGH FOR US --
"-- BOTH!"
THAT'S ONE WEAPON THAT LONE MANIAC WILL NEVER HAVE --
TEAMWORK! C'MON, LET'S FINISH THE --

--JOB? HEY, WHERE'D HE GO?
I-I SAW, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ONE SECOND HE WAS HERE --
--AN' THE NEXT, HE STARTED TO FADE! BLENDED RIGHT IN WITH THE CONCRETE! H-HE JUST...
...DIS-APPEARED!
USED THE BLASTED ALIEN TO CAMOUFLAGE 'IM!
WHAT NOW-- SEARCH AND DESTROY?
NO! EMERGENCY CREWS'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!
THERE'LL BE ANOTHER TIME!
YEAH... AND SOON!
ARE WE GONNA BE ON TV, DAD?
OH, LORD, WHAT WOULD THE NEIGH-BORS THINK?
LET'S GET BACK IN THE CAR, TIMMY. I-- I THINK IT'S BEST --
--IF WE KEPT A LOW PROFILE!


MISTER BROCK KEEPS A LOW PROFILE IN MOST THINGS, SPIDER-MAN.
HE'S NOT TERRIBLY EMOTIONAL. IN FACT, I DOUBT ANYONE WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN HE WAS --
--THE DAY HE FELL IN LOVE!
"JAMIE BECAME HIS WIFE, AND HIS WORLD. HE WANTED HER TO HAVE EVERYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE HER HAPPY --
"--AND WHAT SHE WANTED MOST WAS A FAMILY.
"BUT WHEN SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO EDDIE, THAT PART OF CARL THAT ALLOWED HIM TO CARE FOR ANOTHER PERSON DIED, TOO.
"NOT THAT HE WAS CRUEL OR ABUSIVE; HE SAW THAT HIS SON GOT THE BEST EDUCATION, THE FINEST HEALTH CARE, THE LATEST TOYS.
"BUT WHAT THE CHILD REALLY NEEDED WAS THE ONE THING CARL BROCK COULD NO LONGER GIVE: AFFECTION.
"IN SCHOOL, THE BOY WORKED HARD. BUT HIS REWARD FOR PERFECT MARKS WAS A TERSE --
--THAT'S NICE EDWARD. NOW, WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND PLAY?
"HE EXCELLED IN SPORTS, HOPING THAT TROPHIES AND MEDALS WOULD DO THE TRICK.
"THEY DIDN'T.


"THEN, IN COLLEGE, THE WATERGATE SCANDAL ERUPTED, AND EDDIE SWITCHED HIS MAJOR TO JOURNALISM.
DAILY BUGLE
WATERGATE COVER-UP REACHES NIXON!
JAWORSKI INDICTS
"ON GRADUATING, HE MOVED TO NEW YORK, GOT A JOB AT THE DAILY GLOBE, AND BECAME A CRUSADING REPORTER.
"SURELY, HE FELT, HIS FATHER WOULD RESPECT THAT.
"BUT EVEN AT THE PEAK OF HIS CAREER, WHEN HE WAS WRITING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH A CONFESSED SERIAL KILLER, WORD FROM CARL WAS RARE, AND PERFUNCTORY.
HOAX!
"THEN, WHEN EDDIE'S SOURCE WAS EXPOSED AS NOTHING BUT A PRANKSTER, EDDIE WAS FIRED IN DISGRACE...
"...AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FATHER AND SON CEASED ALTOGETHER!"
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, I THINK THAT PUSHED POOR EDDIE TOWARD MADNESS: HE SOUGHT HIS FATHER'S LOVE--
--BUT BROUGHT HIM ONLY SHAME.
THANKS, MS. DEMPSY. YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP.
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE THAT.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING SHE TOLD ME WILL ACTUALLY HELP ME FIND VENOM!
STILL, LIKE THE OLD SAYING GOES--

"--KNOW YOUR ENEMY!" PROBLEM IS, I MAY BE GETTING TO KNOW EDDIE TOO WELL! I HONESTLY FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR HIM!
AND IS THAT WISE, HAVING SYMPATHY FOR A MAN WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE --
--IS TO KILL ME?!
BUT POLICE ADMIT THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN THE BIZARRE BATTLE-- VENOM, AND THE MYSTERIOUS ARMORED WARRIORS -- ARE STILL AT LARGE.
THE TREECE BUILDING.
--THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN KILLED SO FAR.
OBVIOUSLY, THIS STORY IS FAR FROM OVER!
THAT'S WHAT CONCERNS ME! WITH VENOM STILL ON THE LOOSE, HE REMAINS A THREAT TO MY PARK RENOVATION PLAN --
--AND TO THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN GOLD IT REPRESENTS!
I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS THE HARD WAY!

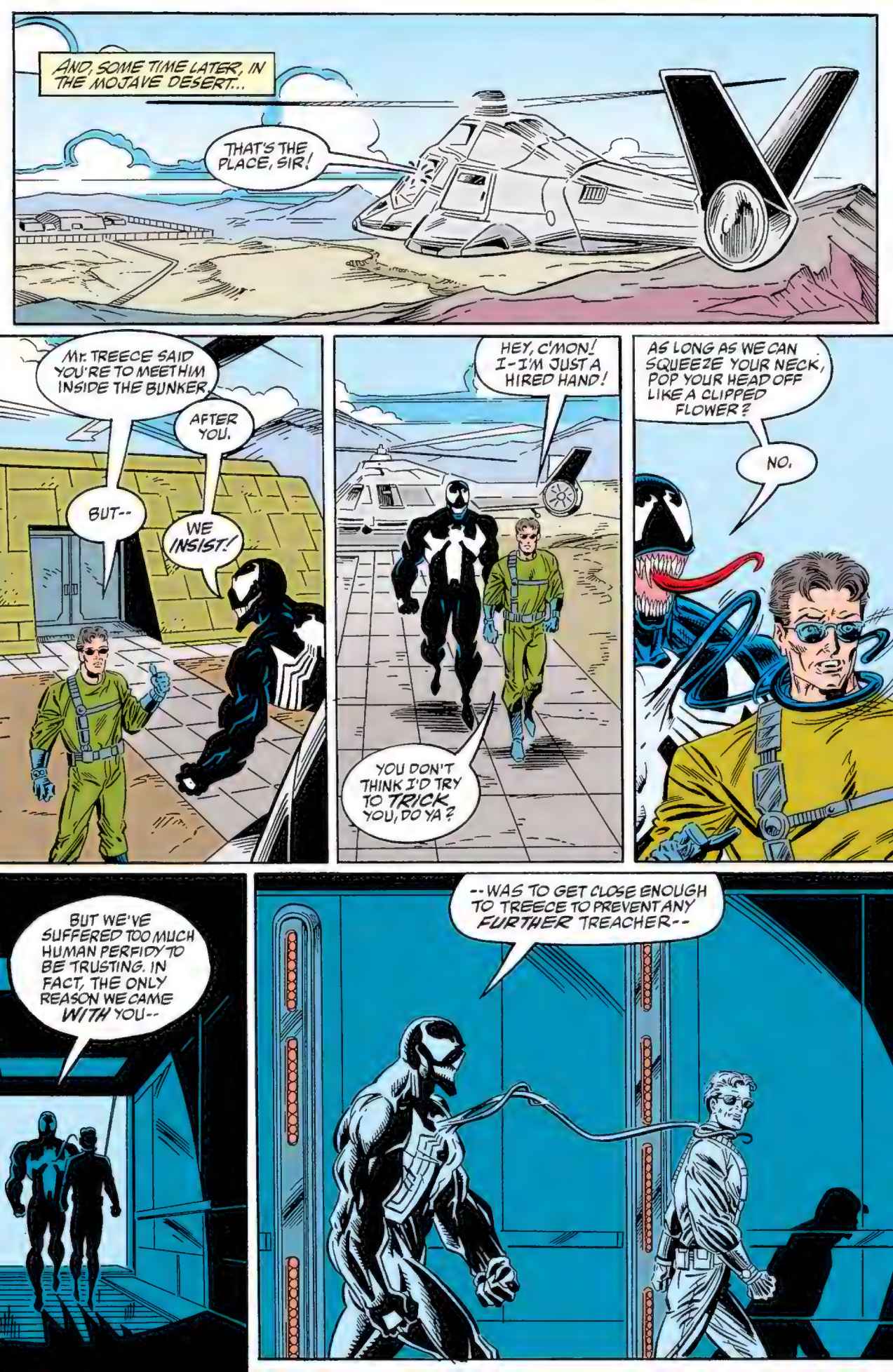

THAT WAS EASIER THAN WE EXPECTED--
CLEMENT STREET, SOUTH OF THE GOLDEN GATE.
-- THOUGH THE FACT THAT WE ARE NOW PURSUED DOES COMPLICATE MATTERS!
STILL, SAN FRANCISCO'S A BIG PLACE. IF WE ADOPT A MORE CONVENTIONAL APPEARANCE--
-- MINGLE WITH THE CIVILIAN POPULACE--WE SHOULD BE FINE. AFTER ALL, TAYLOR'S MEN CAN'T BE--
"--EVERYWHERE!"
THIS IS WATCHPOST 73! TARGET SIGHTED, GOIN' EAST ON CLEMENT!
GET THE TEAM HERE FAST! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO MAKE SURE BROCK--
"--STICKS AROUND!"
Hnh--?
POW

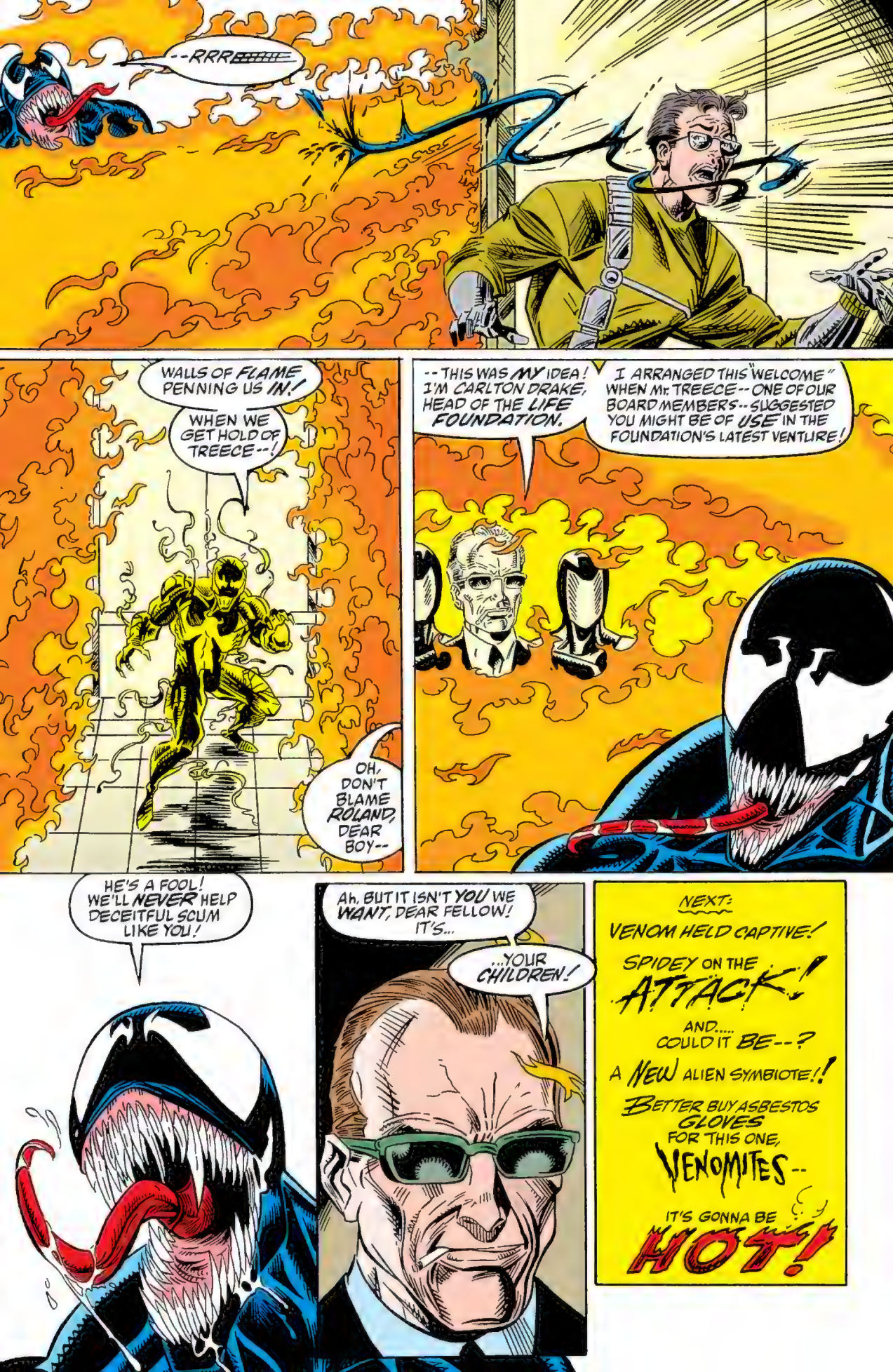
YYYAAHHAAAGGHH!
SKREEEE
SONIC GRENADE PUT THE HURT ON YOUR ALIEN BUDDY! BUT THESE BULLETS--
--ARE FOR YOU!
Wh-why...?
WHY?! HUGH TAYLOR WAS ONE OF THE FINEST MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN!
AND TO AVENGE HIM, YOU'D CONDEMN MANY TO DEATH?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
A COLONY OF INNOCENT STREET PEOPLE IS IN DANGER--
--AND WE COULD BE THEIR ONLY SALVATION!
UNLESS YOU STOP US!
WE SEE HESITATION IN YOUR EYES! TENSION EASING IN YOUR TRIGGER FINGER! NOT MUCH, BUT--

--ENOUGH!
THOSE SECONDS ALLOWED US TO RECOVER FROM THE GRENADE!
WE SHOULD KILL YOU, BUT YOUR INSTANT OF COMPASSION HAS BOUGHT YOU YOUR LIFE! NOW GO, BEFORE--
WROK
SENTRY!
BUT WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
WE WERE SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE CITY, LOOKING FOR VENOM! THEY'LL BE ALONG SOON!

MEANWHILE--
--MY REPULSOR RAYS SHOULD HOLD HIM DOWN UNTIL--
CHOONT
WHAMB
=hng=
SOME-ONE'S SHOOTING AT SOME-ONE...
...BESIDES US?!

COME ABOARD, Mr. BROCK! I OFFER SANCTUARY...
...AND A PROPOSITION!
YES, I KNOW IT'S A TRAP! BUT WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE? THE JURY WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT! BESIDES...
...THIS COULD BE ENLIGHTENING!
PLIP
VERY WELL, WE'RE HERE! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
GOOD AFTERNOON, Mr. BROCK. I'M--
--ROLAND TREECE! I'VE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE YOU WITH ME THAN AGAINST ME!
THEREFORE, I'D LIKE TO HIRE YOU--
--AS MY NEW HEAD OF SECURITY!
Hmm. DOES THE POSITION COVER YOUR PARK RENOVATION PROJECT?
IT DOES.
'KAY!


AND, SOME TIME LATER, IN THE MOJAVE DESERT...
THAT'S THE PLACE, SIR!
Mr. TREECE SAID YOU'RE TO MEET HIM INSIDE THE BUNKER.
AFTER YOU.
BUT--
WE INSIST!
HEY, C'MON! I--I'M JUST A HIRED HAND!
YOU DON'T THINK I'D TRY TO TRICK YOU, DO YA?
AS LONG AS WE CAN SQUEEZE YOUR NECK, POP YOUR HEAD OFF LIKE A CLIPPED FLOWER?
NO.
BUT WE'VE SUFFERED TOO MUCH HUMAN PERFIDY TO BE TRUSTING. IN FACT, THE ONLY REASON WE CAME WITH YOU--
--WAS TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TREECE TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER TREACHER--


--RRR
WALLS OF FLAME PENNING US IN!
WHEN WE GET HOLD OF TREECE--!
OH, DON'T BLAME ROLAND, DEAR BOY--
--THIS WAS MY IDEA! I'M CARLTON DRAKE, HEAD OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION.
I ARRANGED THIS "WELCOME" WHEN Mr. TREECE--ONE OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS--SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT BE OF USE IN THE FOUNDATION'S LATEST VENTURE!
HE'S A FOOL! WE'LL NEVER HELP DECEITFUL SCUM LIKE YOU!
Ah, BUT IT ISN'T YOU WE WANT, DEAR FELLOW! IT'S...
...YOUR CHILDREN!
NEXT:
VENOM HELD CAPTIVE!
SPIDEY ON THE ATTACK!
AND.... COULD IT BE--?
A NEW ALIEN SYMBIOTE!!
BETTER BUY ASBESTOS GLOVES FOR THIS ONE, VENOMITES--
IT'S GONNA BE HOT!

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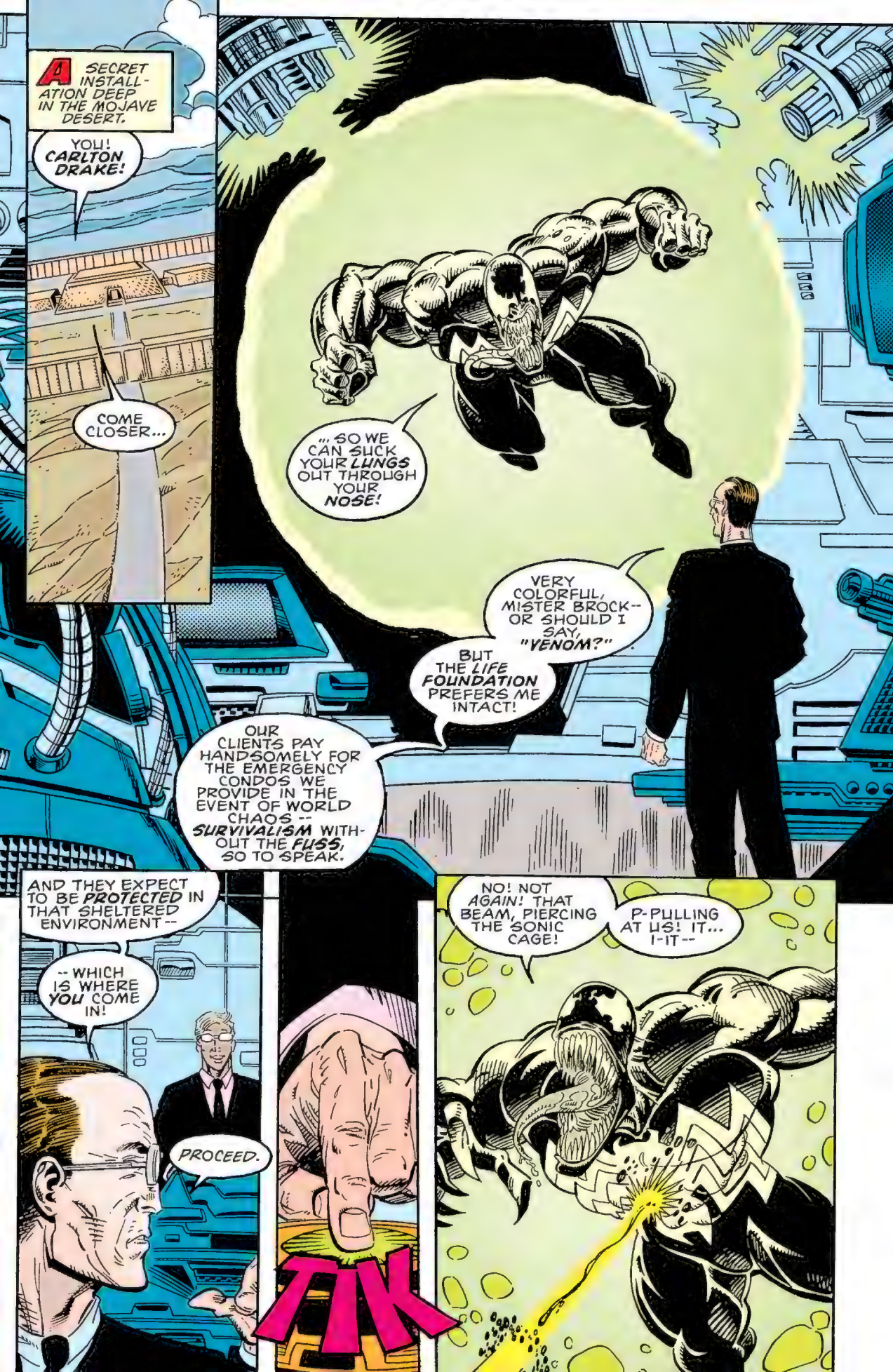
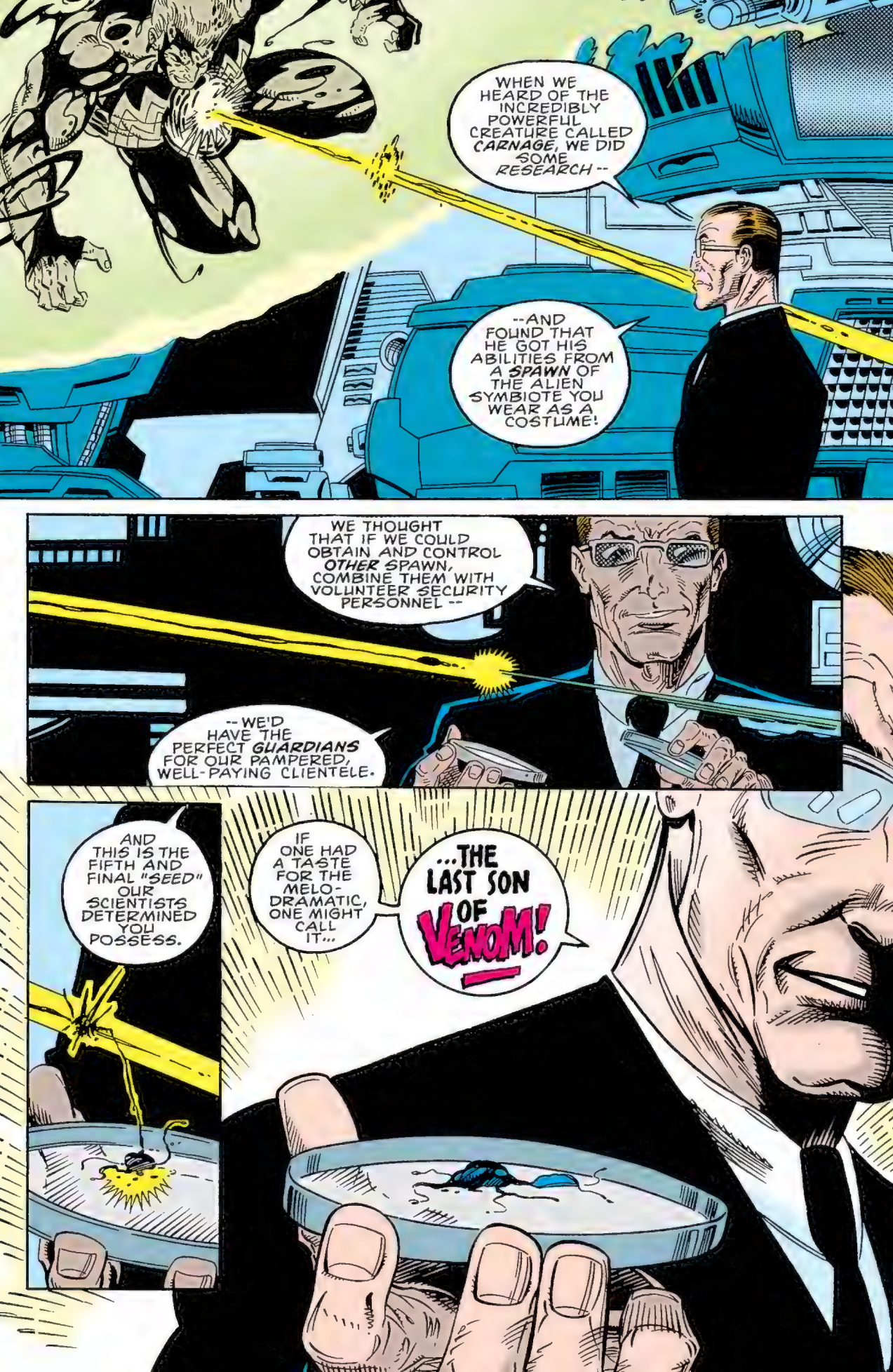
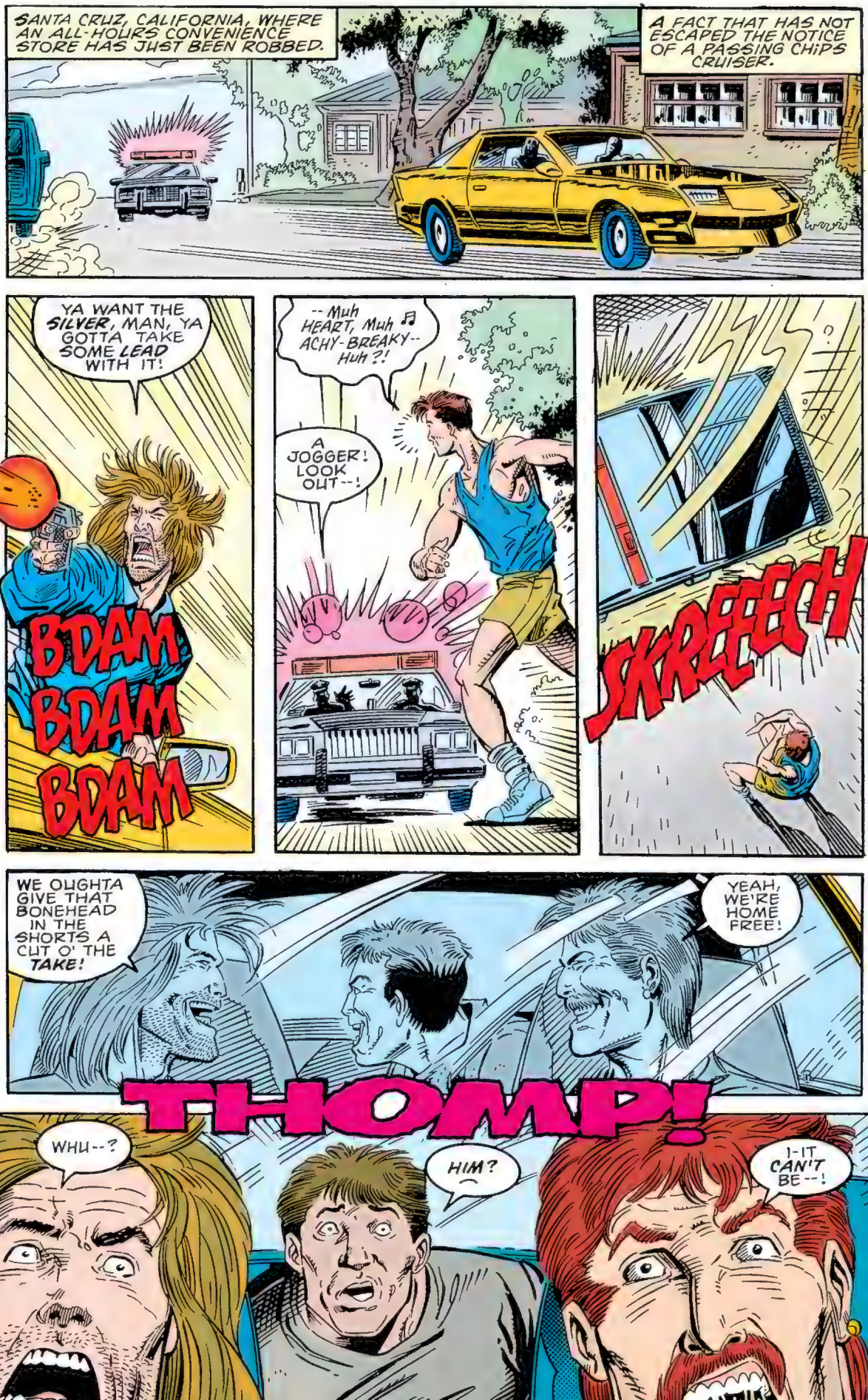
PART FOUR OF SIX
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
BAGLEY
PANOSIAN
INSIDE: YOU--AND VENOM™ & SPIDER-MAN® WILL CONFRONT THE FIRST FEMALE SYMBIOTE!!

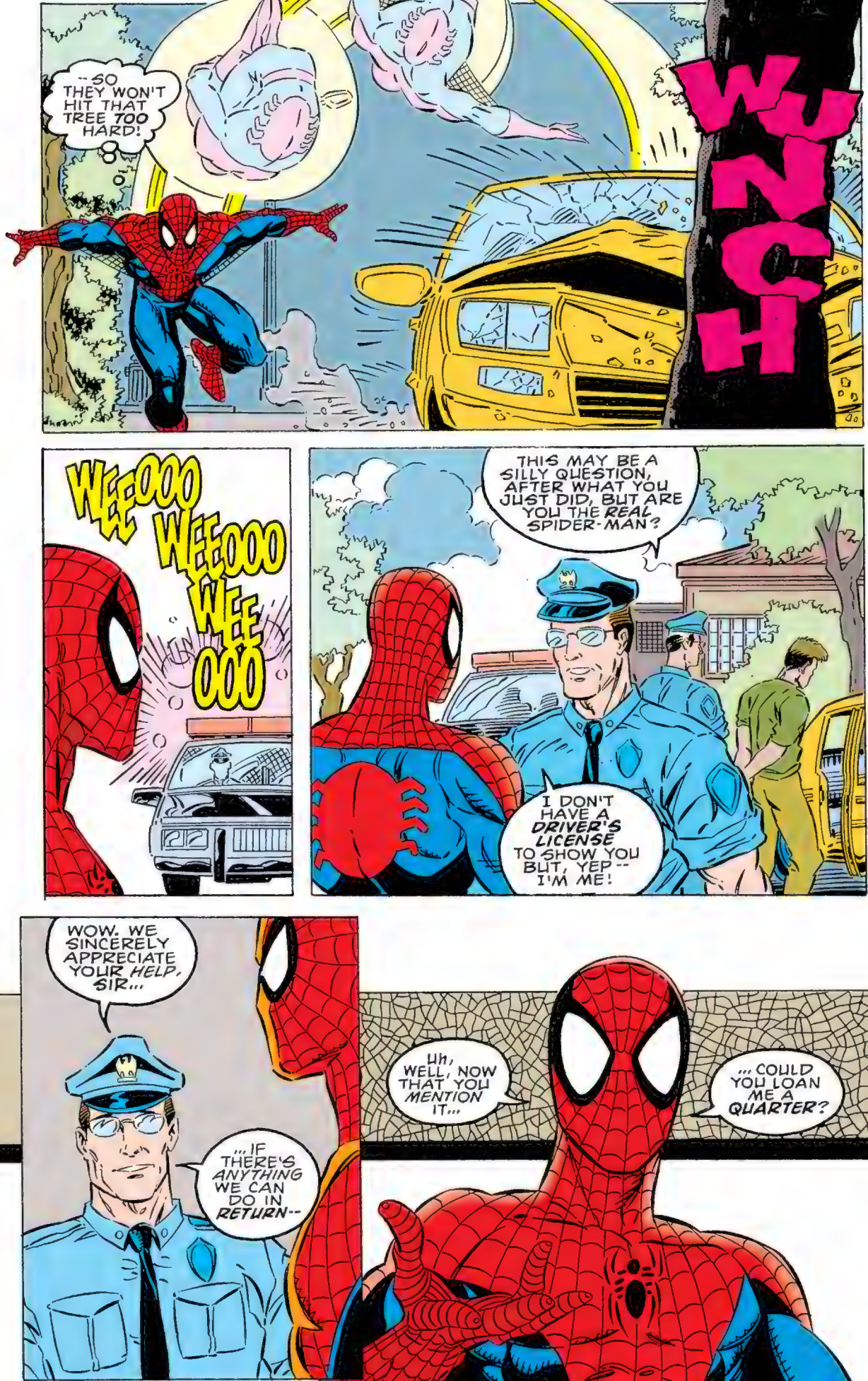

A SECRET INSTALLATION DEEP IN THE MOJAVE DESERT.
YOU! CARLTON DRAKE!
COME CLOSER...
...SO WE CAN SUCK YOUR LUNGS OUT THROUGH YOUR NOSE!
VERY COLORFUL, MISTER BROCK-- OR SHOULD I SAY, "VENOM?"
BUT THE LIFE FOUNDATION PREFERS ME INTACT!
OUR CLIENTS PAY HANDSOMELY FOR THE EMERGENCY CONDOS WE PROVIDE IN THE EVENT OF WORLD CHAOS -- SURVIVALISM WITHOUT THE FUSS, SO TO SPEAK.
AND THEY EXPECT TO BE PROTECTED IN THAT SHELTERED ENVIRONMENT--
-- WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN!
PROCEED.
TTK
NO! NOT AGAIN! THAT BEAM, PIERCING THE SONIC CAGE!
P-PULLING AT US! IT... I-IT--

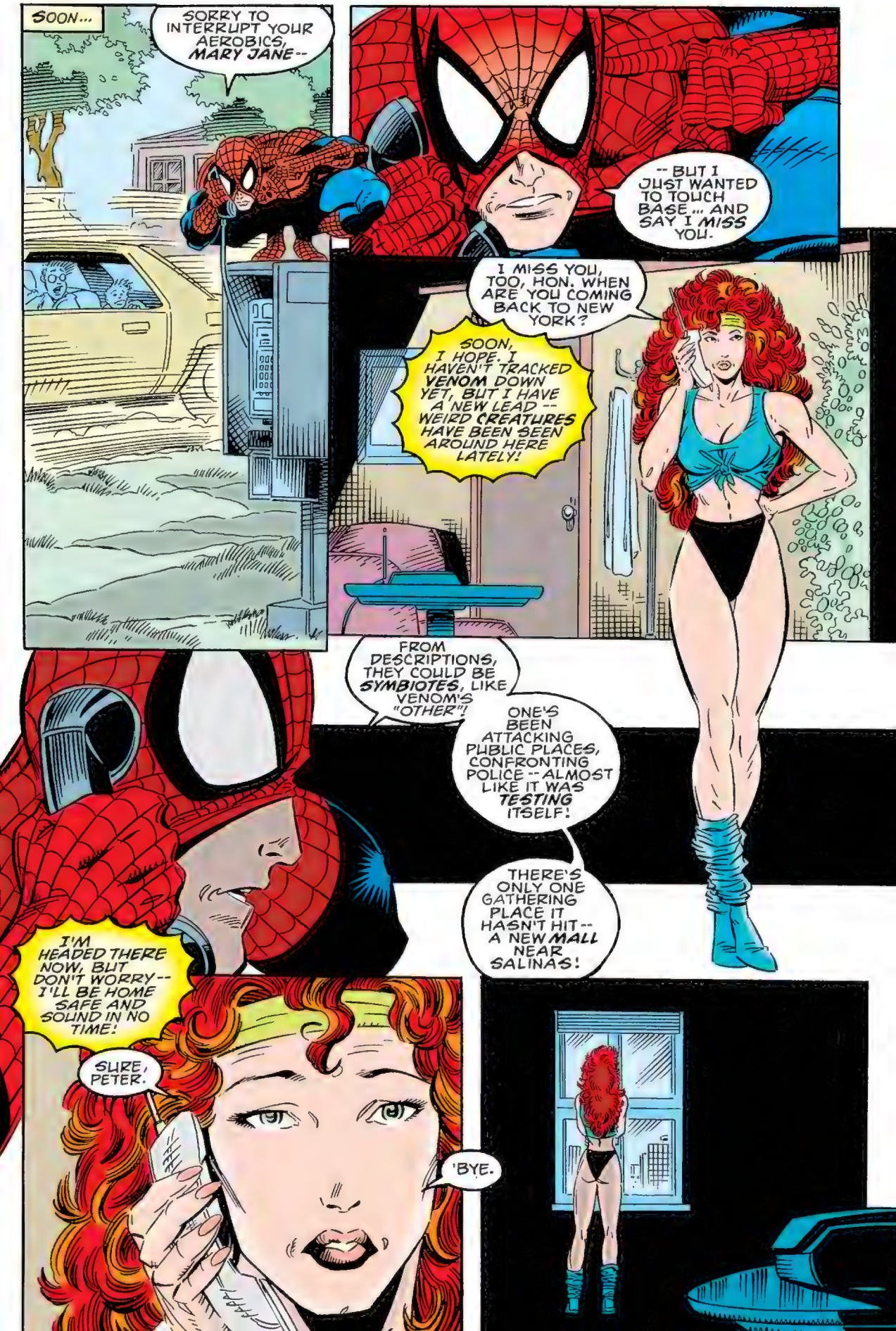
Stan Lee PRESENTS: VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR
PART 4
DEADLY BIRTH!
AAAHHGH!
DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER
RON LIM BREAKDOWNS
SAM DELAROSA AND
AL MILGROM FINISHES
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERS
MARIE JAVINS COLORS
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF


WHEN WE HEARD OF THE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL CREATURE CALLED CARNAGE, WE DID SOME RESEARCH --
--AND FOUND THAT HE GOT HIS ABILITIES FROM A SPAWN OF THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE YOU WEAR AS A COSTUME!
WE THOUGHT THAT IF WE COULD OBTAIN AND CONTROL OTHER SPAWN, COMBINE THEM WITH VOLUNTEER SECURITY PERSONNEL --
--WE'D HAVE THE PERFECT GUARDIANS FOR OUR PAMPERED, WELL-PAYING CLIENTELE.
AND THIS IS THE FIFTH AND FINAL "SEED" OUR SCIENTISTS DETERMINED YOU POSSESS.
IF ONE HAD A TASTE FOR THE MELO-DRAMATIC, ONE MIGHT CALL IT...
...THE LAST SON OF VENOM!


SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, WHERE AN ALL-HOURS CONVENIENCE STORE HAS JUST BEEN ROBBED.
A FACT THAT HAS NOT ESCAPED THE NOTICE OF A PASSING CHiPS CRUISER.
YA WANT THE SILVER, MAN, YA GOTTA TAKE SOME LEAD WITH IT!
BDAM BDAM BDAM
-- Muh HEART, Muh ♫ ACHY-BREAKY-- Huh?!
A JOGGER! LOOK OUT--!
SKREEECH
WE OUGHTA GIVE THAT BONEHEAD IN THE SHORTS A CUT O' THE TAKE!
YEAH, WE'RE HOME FREE!
THOMP!
WHU--?
HIM?
I-IT CAN'T BE--!

BOO!
OKAY, SO MAYBE I SHOULD LEAVE THE SPOOKY STUFF TO GHOST RIDER!
THWAP
BUT WEBBING UP THIS WINDSHIELD IS PURE SPIDEY!
AND IT SLOWED 'EM DOWN ENOUGH--

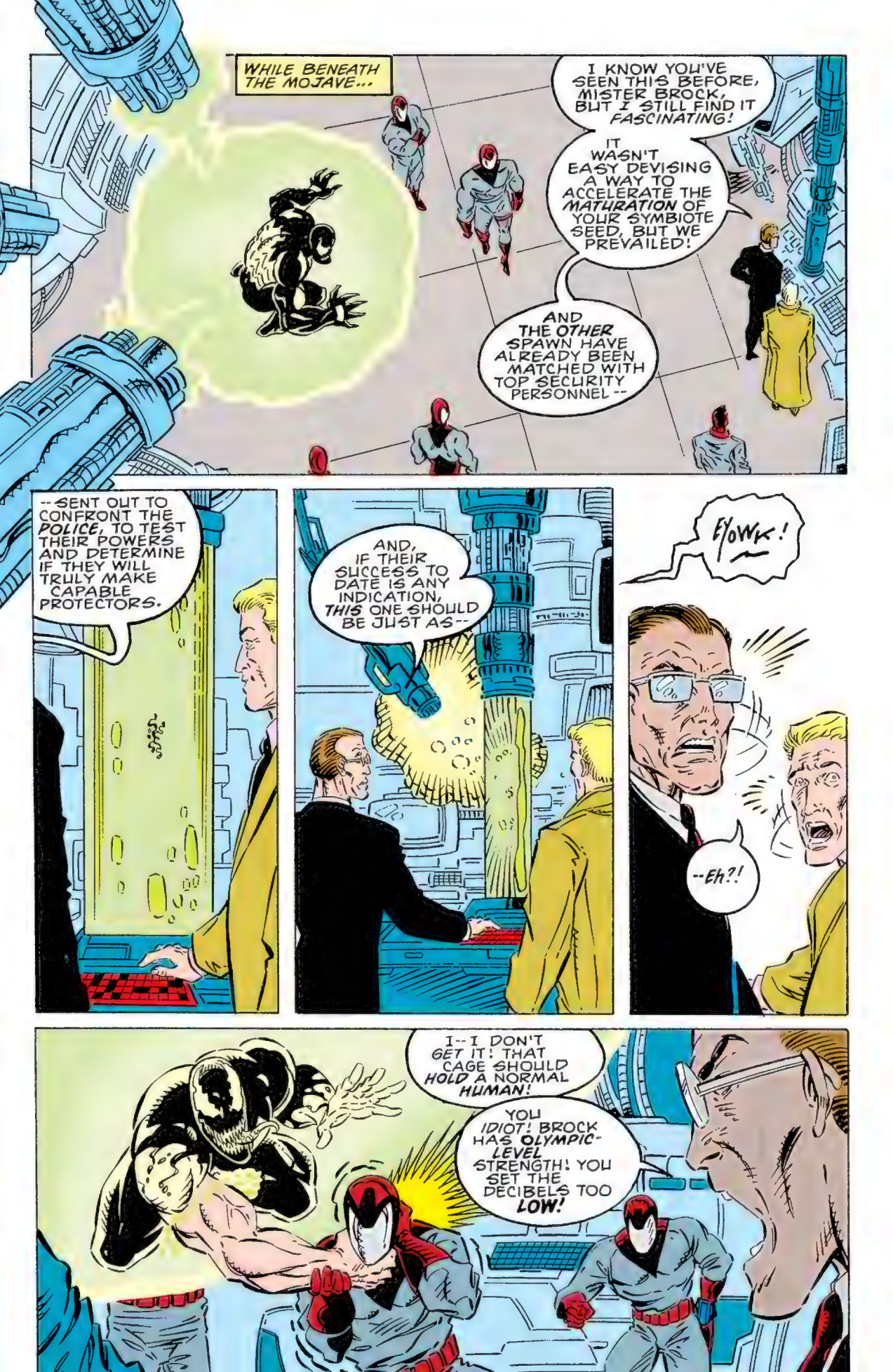

...SO THEY WON'T HIT THAT TREE TOO HARD!
WUNCH
WEEOOO WEEOOO WEE OOO
THIS MAY BE A SILLY QUESTION, AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID, BUT ARE YOU THE REAL SPIDER-MAN?
I DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE TO SHOW YOU BUT, YEP -- I'M ME!
WOW. WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, SIR...
...IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO IN RETURN--
UH, WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...COULD YOU LOAN ME A QUARTER?


SOON...
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR AEROBICS, MARY JANE--
-- BUT I JUST WANTED TO TOUCH BASE... AND SAY I MISS YOU.
I MISS YOU, TOO, HON. WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK TO NEW YORK?
SOON, I HOPE. I HAVEN'T TRACKED VENOM DOWN YET, BUT I HAVE A NEW LEAD -- WEIRD CREATURES HAVE BEEN SEEN AROUND HERE LATELY!
FROM DESCRIPTIONS, THEY COULD BE SYMBIOTES, LIKE VENOM'S "OTHER"!
ONE'S BEEN ATTACKING PUBLIC PLACES, CONFRONTING POLICE -- ALMOST LIKE IT WAS TESTING ITSELF!
THERE'S ONLY ONE GATHERING PLACE IT HASN'T HIT -- A NEW MALL NEAR SALINAS!
I'M HEADED THERE NOW, BUT DON'T WORRY -- I'LL BE HOME SAFE AND SOUND IN NO TIME!
SURE, PETER.
'BYE.

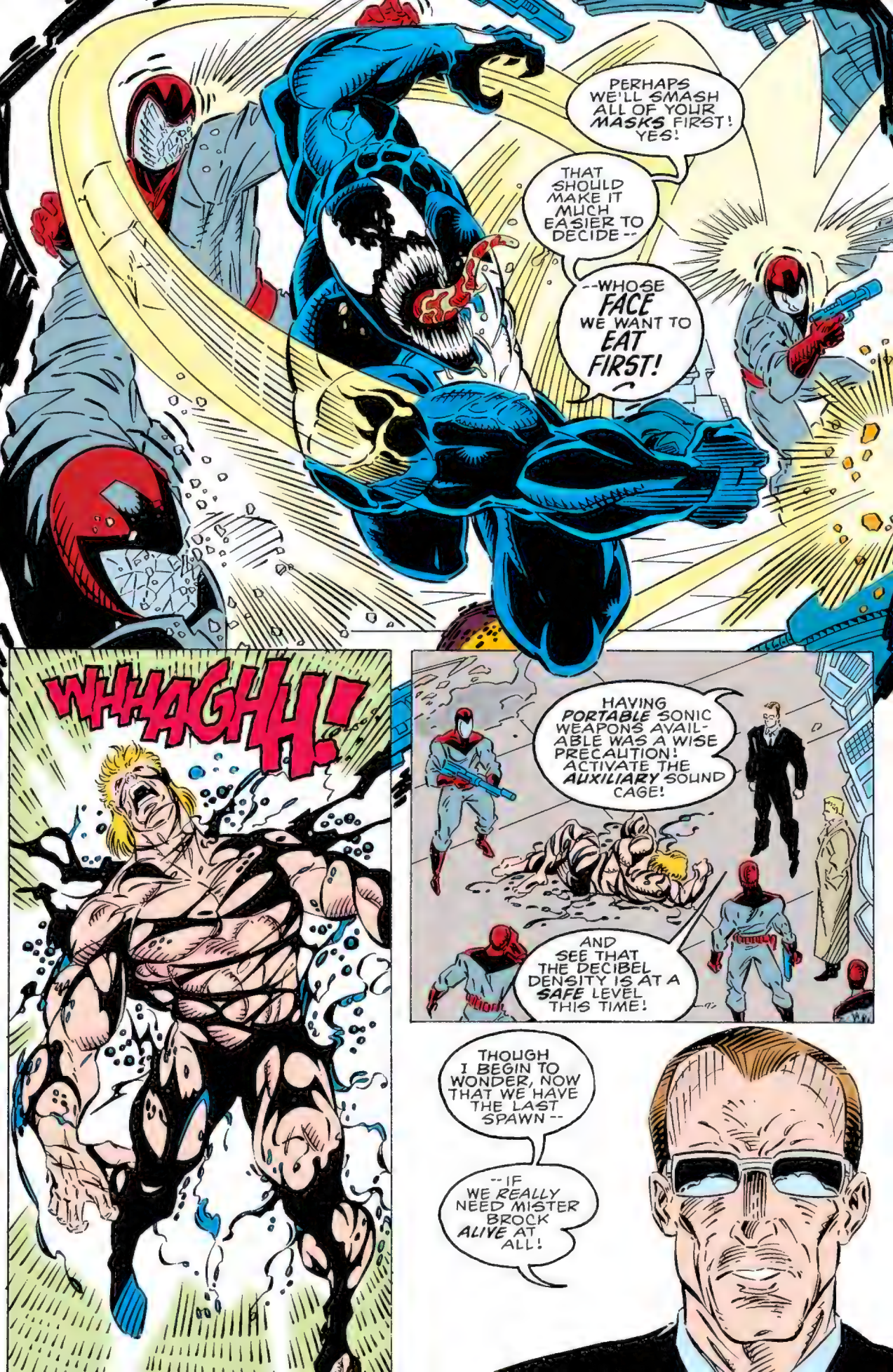
THE DESERT...
I KNOW. THIS IS FRUSTRATING, HUMILIATING--
--FOR US BOTH!
THE SOUND WALL IS SOLID, STRONG. BUT IT'S EVEN WORSE FOR YOU, MY "OTHER."
TRYING TO FORCE OUR WAY THROUGH CAUSES YOU AGONY, PAIN SO INTENSE THAT I FEEL IT AS WELL!
I'M ALMOST GLAD MY FATHER AND I ARE ES-TRANGED.
I DEVELOPED MY MUSCLES TO IMPRESS HIM! BUT EVEN WITH YOUR ALIEN POWER, WE'RE HELPLESS. FATHER WOULD BE ASHAMED OF ME...
...AGAIN.
Hnh? WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY I SHOULD TRY MY OWN STRENGTH --
-- ALONE? OF COURSE! SONICS DON'T HURT OUR HUMAN HALF! AND THAT COULD MEAN...
YESSSSSS!

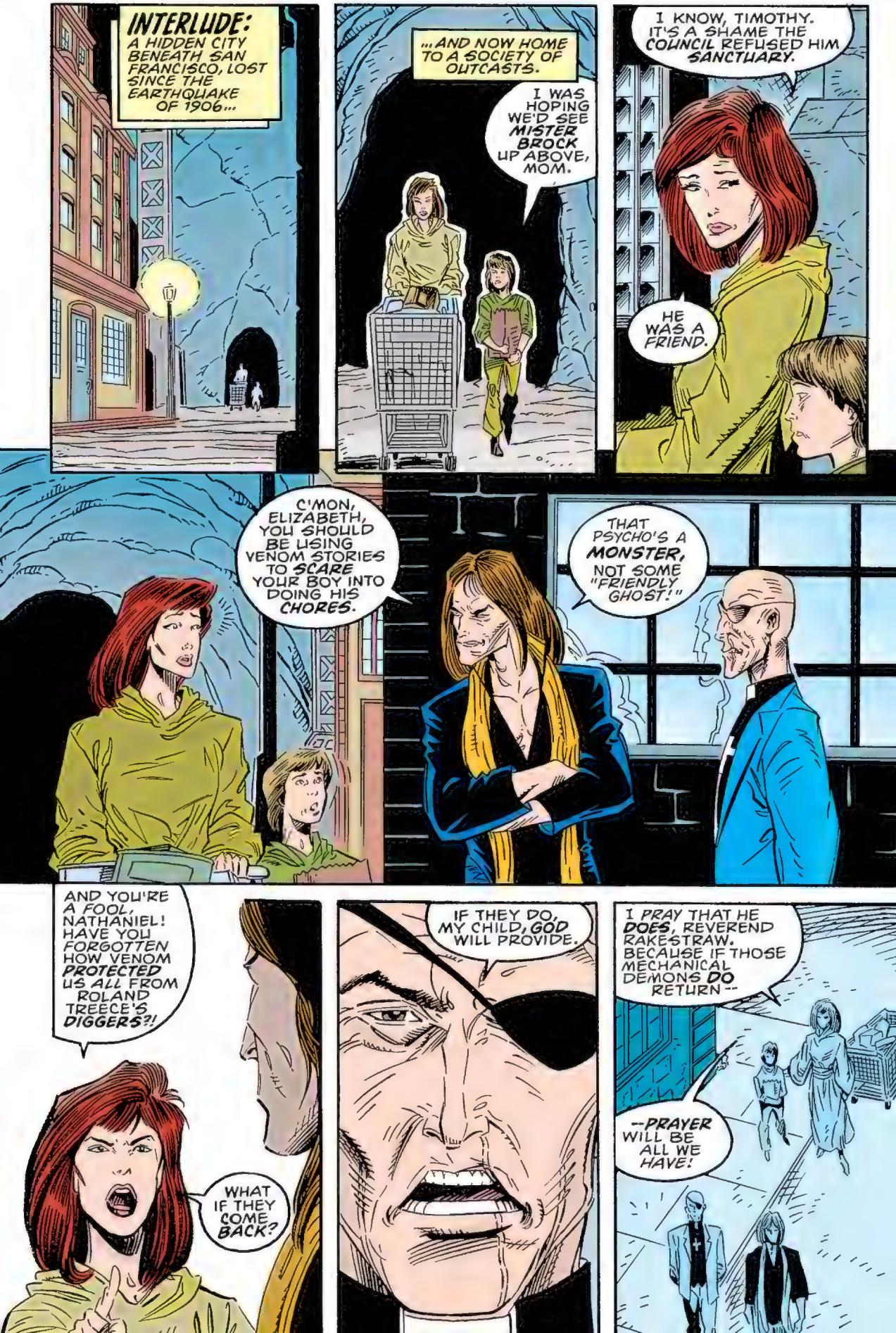
NEAR SALINAS...
THERE'S THE MALL! BUT IS IT THE NEXT TARGET?
AH! A CLUE!
KREESH
OH MAN! THIS PLACE IS IN PIECES!
I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN HERE SOONER!
HEEELLLP!!
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I'M HERE JUST IN TIME!
BE COOL, LADY! EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE FINE!
WHO'RE YOU KIDDIN', PAL? EVEN IF YOU REALLY WERE SPIDER-MAN, YOU WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST--
--THAT!

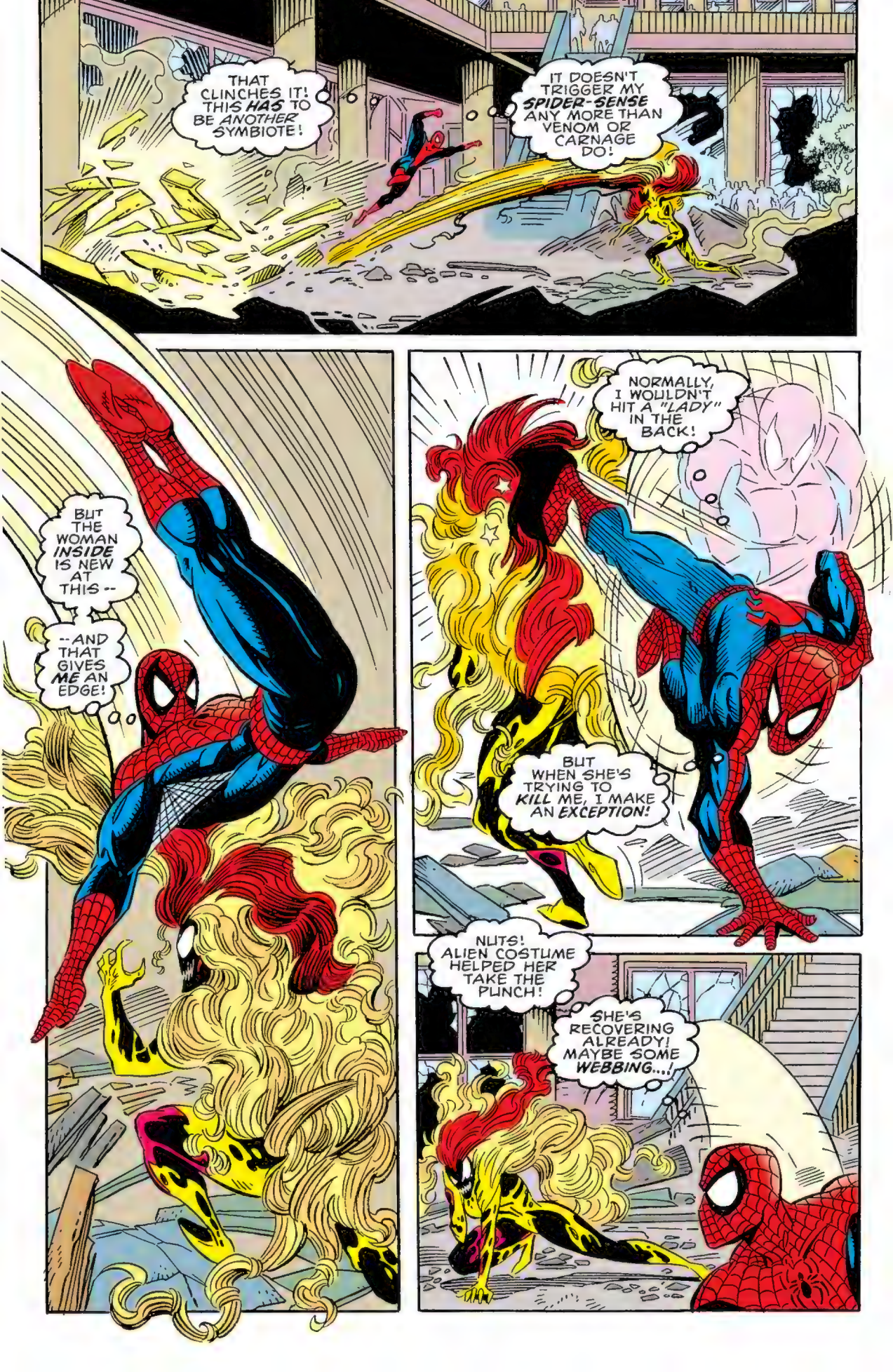
WELL, WELL! AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS SUPER-HERO? PERFECT!
BREAKING YOU IN HALF WILL MAKE OUR LITTLE EXERCISE A COMPLETE SUCCESS!
AW, NO! SOMEONE WITH A LIVING COSTUME ... WHO WANTS TO KILL ME?!
IT'S DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN!

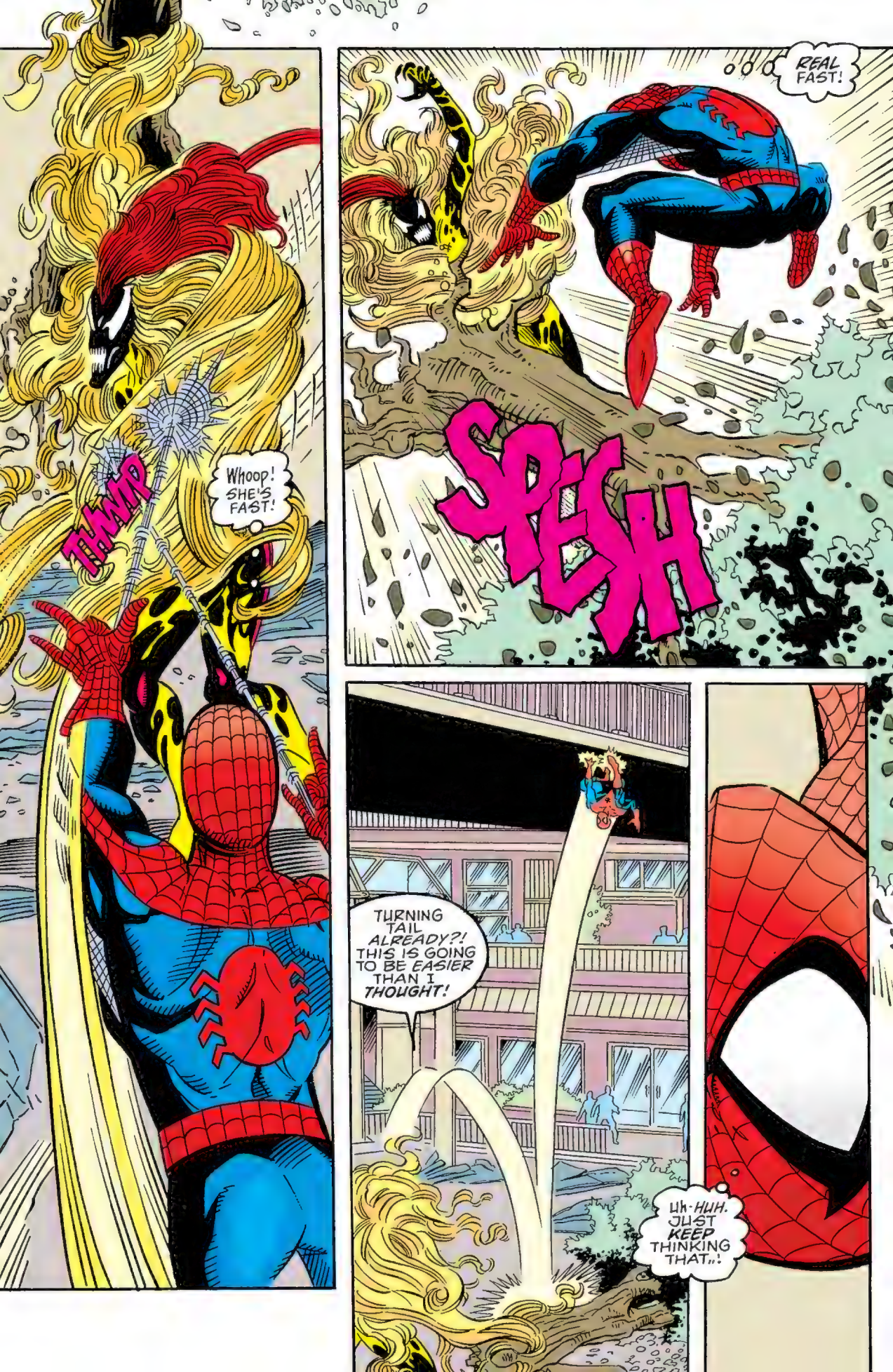

WHILE BENEATH THE MOJAVE...
I KNOW YOU'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE, MISTER BROCK, BUT I STILL FIND IT FASCINATING!
IT WASN'T EASY DEVISING A WAY TO ACCELERATE THE MATURATION OF YOUR SYMBIOTE SEED, BUT WE PREVAILED!
AND THE OTHER SPAWN HAVE ALREADY BEEN MATCHED WITH TOP SECURITY PERSONNEL --
--SENT OUT TO CONFRONT THE POLICE, TO TEST THEIR POWERS AND DETERMINE IF THEY WILL TRULY MAKE CAPABLE PROTECTORS.
AND, IF THEIR SUCCESS TO DATE IS ANY INDICATION, THIS ONE SHOULD BE JUST AS--
EYOWK!
--Eh?!
I--I DON'T GET IT! THAT CAGE SHOULD HOLD A NORMAL HUMAN!
YOU IDIOT! BROCK HAS OLYMPIC-LEVEL STRENGTH! YOU SET THE DECIBELS TOO LOW!

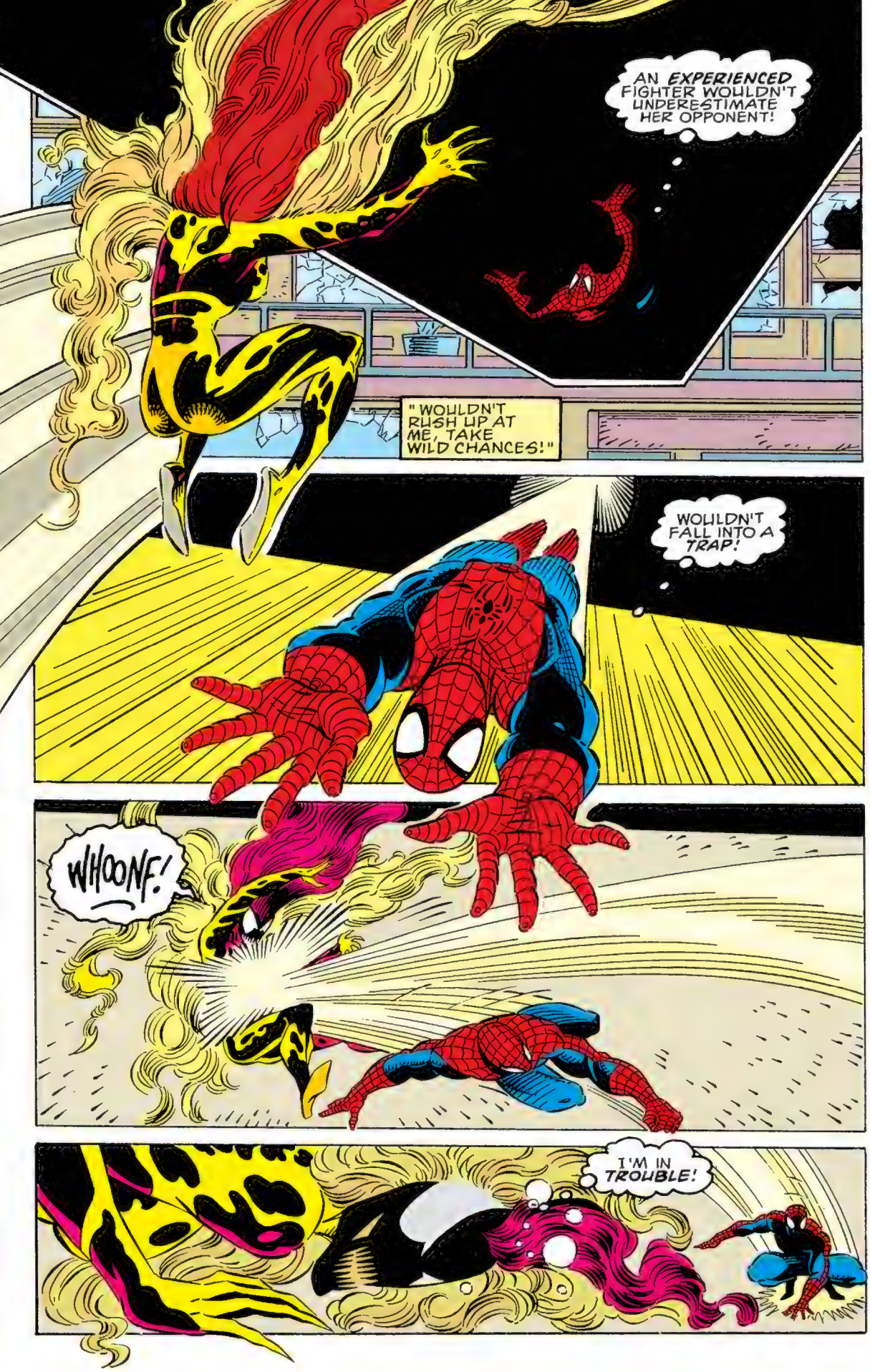
H-HE SLAMMED RICARDO INTO THE CONTROLS!
THEY'RE SHORTIN' OUT! THE MONSTER'S--
FREE!
INDEED! FREE--
--FURIOUS--
--AND VERY, VERY HUNGRY!

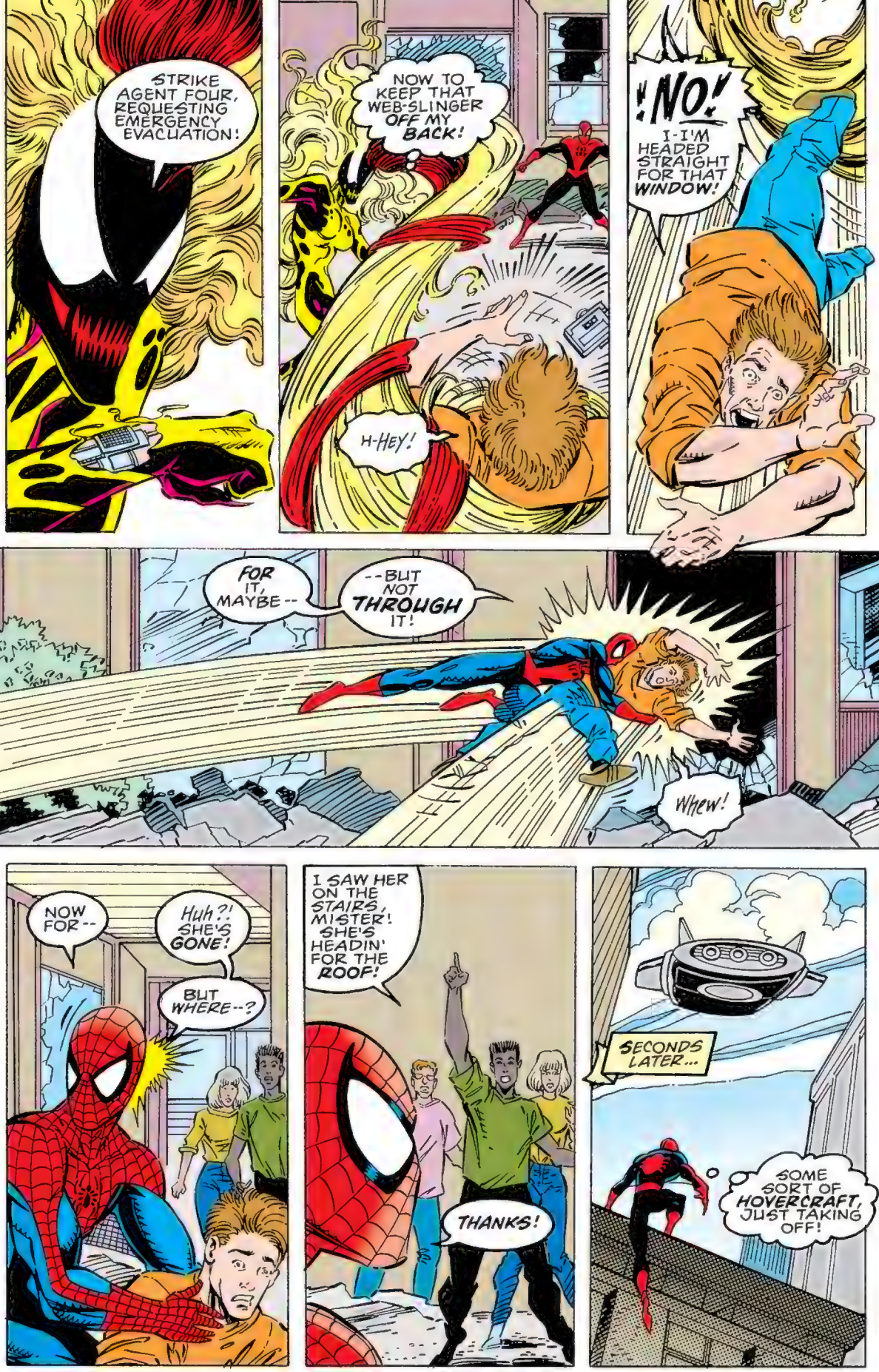

PERHAPS WE'LL SMASH ALL OF YOUR MASKS FIRST! YES!
THAT SHOULD MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO DECIDE --
--WHOSE FACE WE WANT TO EAT FIRST!
WHHAGHH!
HAVING PORTABLE SONIC WEAPONS AVAILABLE WAS A WISE PRECAUTION! ACTIVATE THE AUXILIARY SOUND CAGE!
AND SEE THAT THE DECIBEL DENSITY IS AT A SAFE LEVEL THIS TIME!
THOUGH I BEGIN TO WONDER, NOW THAT WE HAVE THE LAST SPAWN --
--IF WE REALLY NEED MISTER BROCK ALIVE AT ALL!


INTERLUDE:
A HIDDEN CITY BENEATH SAN FRANCISCO, LOST SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1906...
...AND NOW HOME TO A SOCIETY OF OUTCASTS.
I WAS HOPING WE'D SEE MISTER BROCK UP ABOVE, MOM.
I KNOW, TIMOTHY. IT'S A SHAME THE COUNCIL REFUSED HIM SANCTUARY.
HE WAS A FRIEND.
C'MON, ELIZABETH, YOU SHOULD BE USING VENOM STORIES TO SCARE YOUR BOY INTO DOING HIS CHORES.
THAT PSYCHO'S A MONSTER, NOT SOME "FRIENDLY GHOST!"
AND YOU'RE A FOOL, NATHANIEL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW VENOM PROTECTED US ALL FROM ROLAND TREECE'S DIGGERS?!
WHAT IF THEY COME BACK?
IF THEY DO, MY CHILD, GOD WILL PROVIDE.
I PRAY THAT HE DOES, REVEREND RAKESTRAW. BECAUSE IF THOSE MECHANICAL DEMONS DO RETURN --
--PRAYER WILL BE ALL WE HAVE!

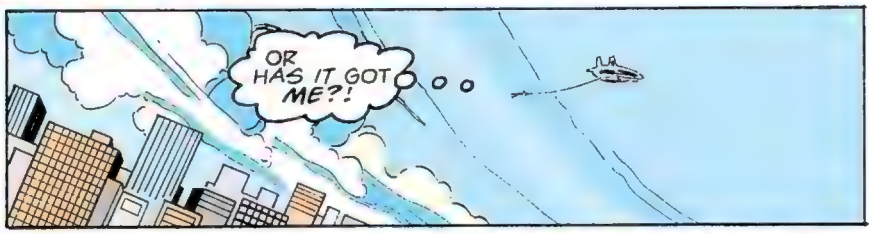

THAT CLINCHES IT! THIS HAS TO BE ANOTHER SYMBIOTE!
IT DOESN'T TRIGGER MY SPIDER-SENSE ANY MORE THAN VENOM OR CARNAGE DO!
BUT THE WOMAN INSIDE IS NEW AT THIS --
--AND THAT GIVES ME AN EDGE!
NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T HIT A "LADY" IN THE BACK!
BUT WHEN SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME, I MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
NUTS! ALIEN COSTUME HELPED HER TAKE THE PUNCH!
SHE'S RECOVERING ALREADY! MAYBE SOME WEBBING...!


REAL FAST!
SPLASH
THWIP
Whoop! SHE'S FAST!
TURNING TAIL ALREADY?! THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT!
Uh-HUH. JUST KEEP THINKING THAT...!

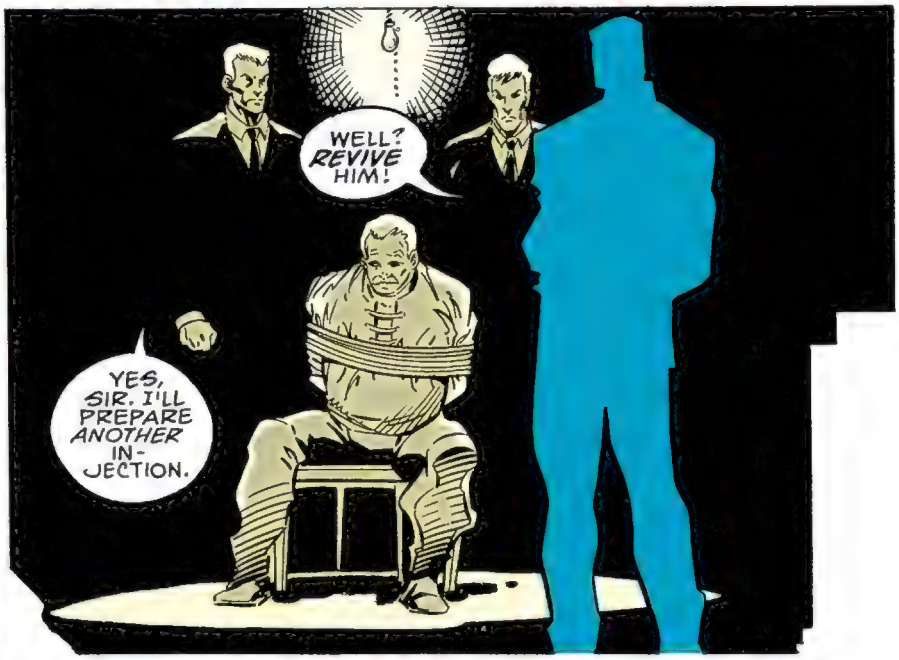

AN EXPERIENCED FIGHTER WOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE HER OPPONENT!
"WOULDN'T RUSH UP AT ME, TAKE WILD CHANCES!"
WOULDN'T FALL INTO A TRAP!
WHOONF!
I'M IN TROUBLE!


STRIKE AGENT FOUR, REQUESTING EMERGENCY EVACUATION!
NOW TO KEEP THAT WEB-SLINGER OFF MY BACK!
H-HEY!
!NO! I-I'M HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THAT WINDOW!
FOR IT, MAYBE--
--BUT NOT THROUGH IT!
Whew!
NOW FOR--
Huh?! SHE'S GONE!
BUT WHERE--?
I SAW HER ON THE STAIRS, MISTER! SHE'S HEADIN' FOR THE ROOF!
THANKS!
SECONDS LATER...
SOME SORT OF HOVERCRAFT, JUST TAKING OFF!

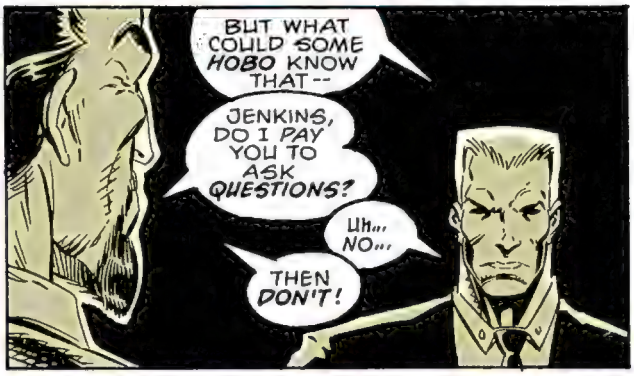
GOT IT!
THWIP


OR HAS IT GOT ME?!

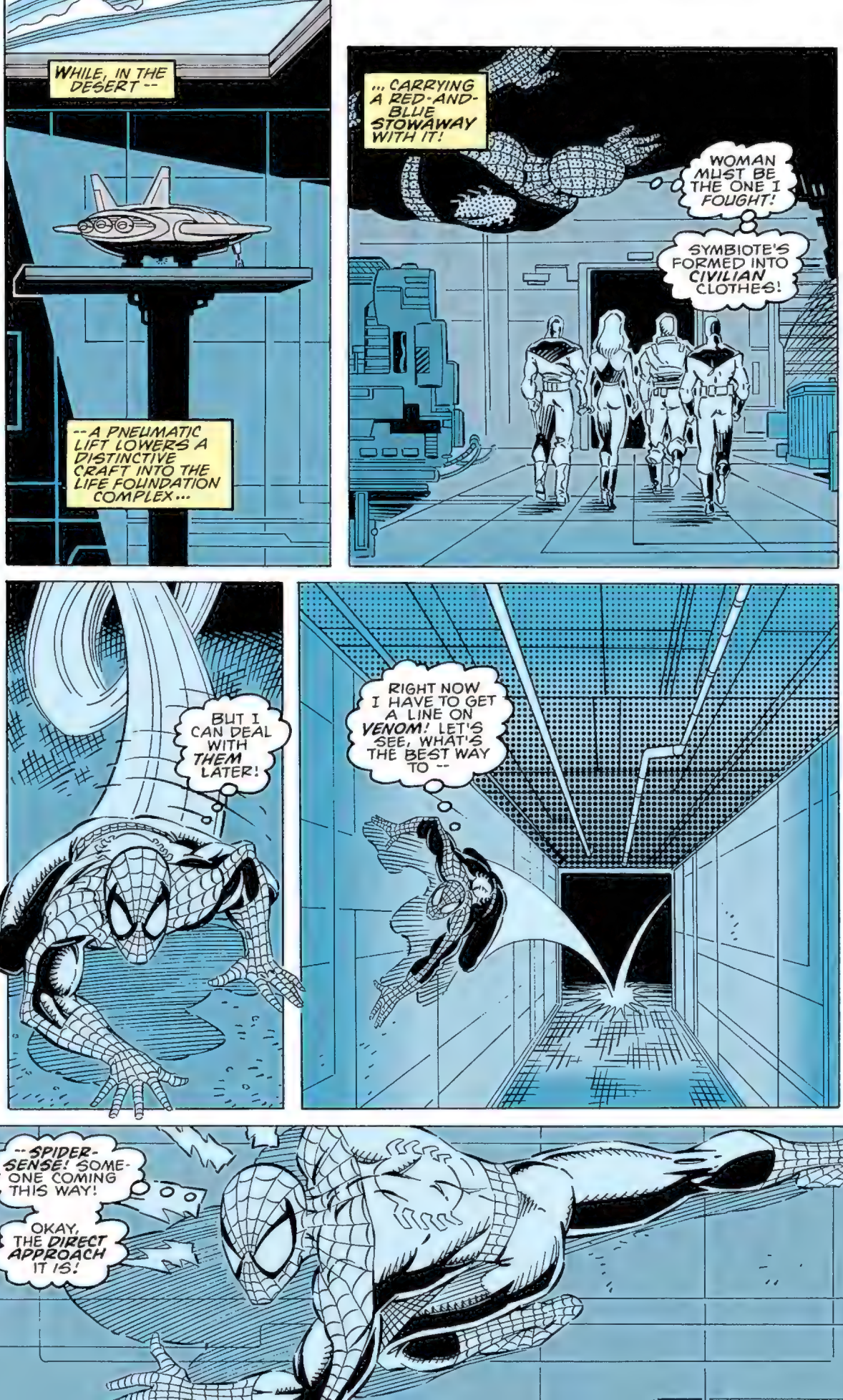
SAN FRANCISCO.
HE'S FAINTED AGAIN, MISTER TREECE!

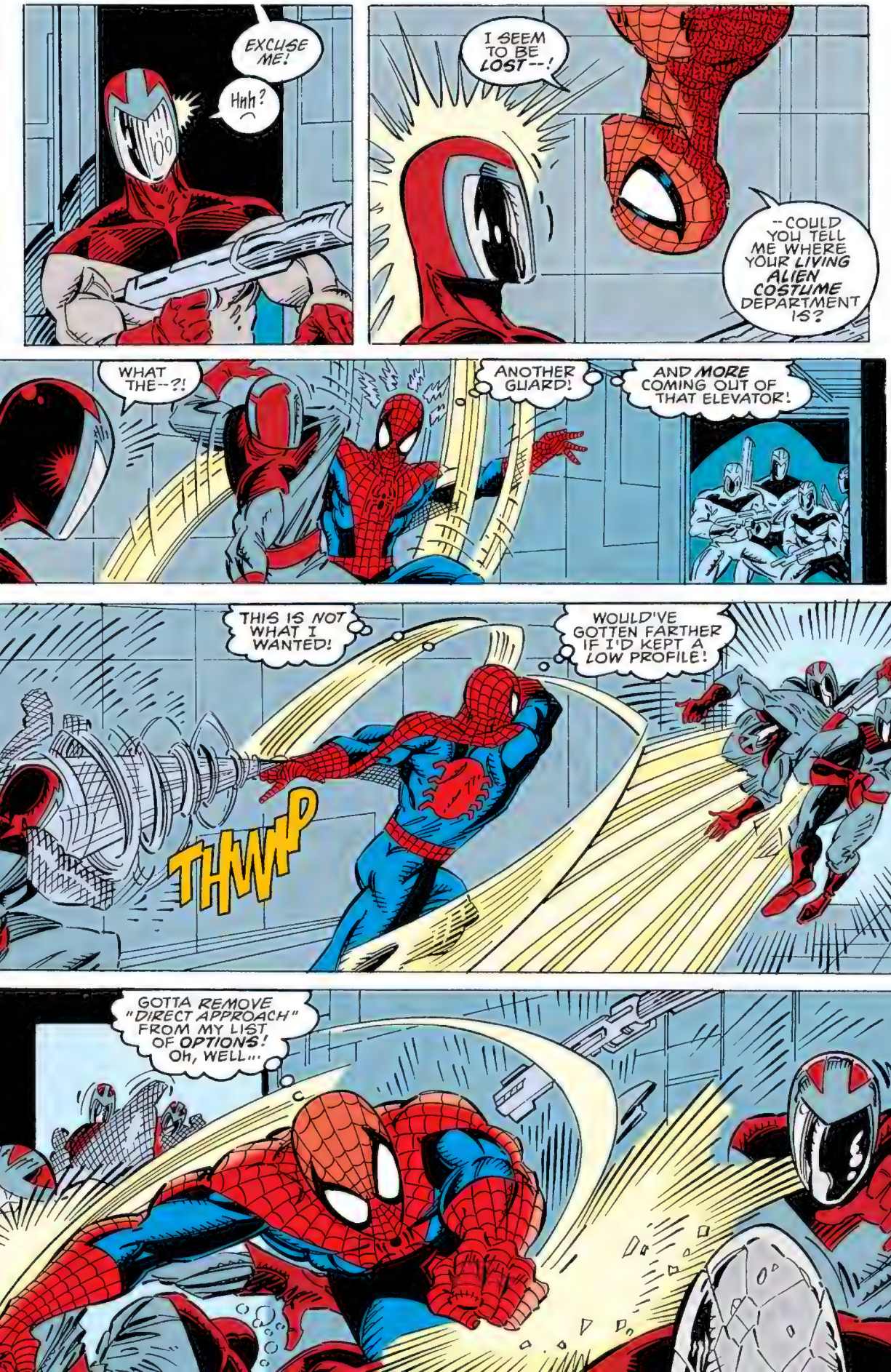

WELL? REVIVE HIM!
YES, SIR. I'LL PREPARE ANOTHER IN-JECTION.

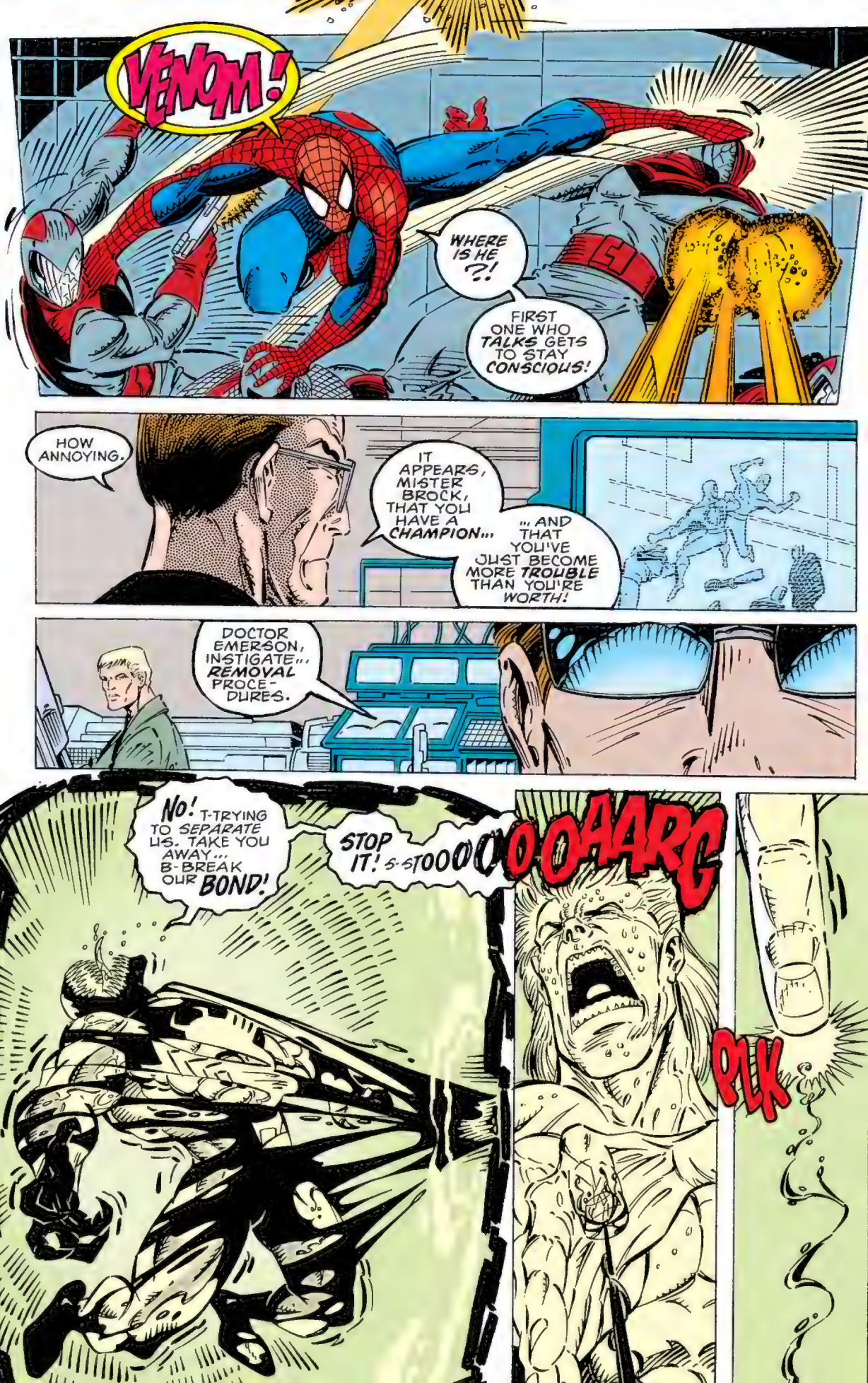
HE'S THE FIRST LIVE PARK DWELLER WE'VE CAPTURED!
I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS!

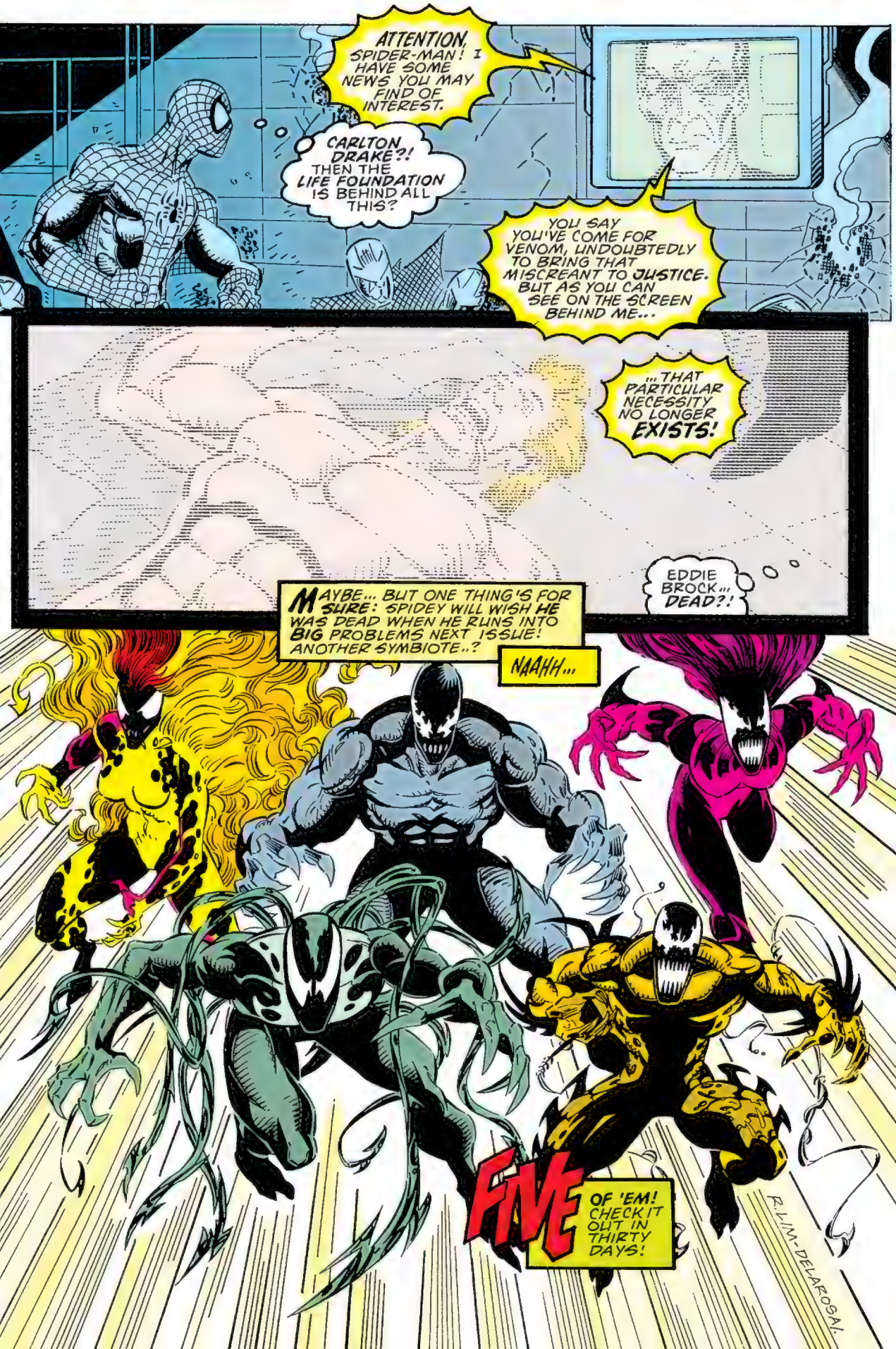

BUT WHAT COULD SOME HOBO KNOW THAT --
JENKINS, DO I PAY YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS?
UH... NO...
THEN DON'T!

THERE'S A FORTUNE IN GOLD BENEATH THAT PARK! BUT IF THOSE SCAVENGERS FIND IT, MAKE IT PUBLIC, THE CITY COULD CLAIM IT ALL!
I'VE GOT TO LOCATE THEIR UNDERGROUND LAIR AND TAKE THEM OUT OF THE PICTURE, ONE WAY... OR ANOTHER!


WHILE, IN THE DESERT --
--A PNEUMATIC LIFT LOWERS A DISTINCTIVE CRAFT INTO THE LIFE FOUNDATION COMPLEX...
... CARRYING A RED-AND-BLUE STOWAWAY WITH IT!
WOMAN MUST BE THE ONE I FOUGHT!
SYMBIOTE'S FORMED INTO CIVILIAN CLOTHES!
BUT I CAN DEAL WITH THEM LATER!
RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO GET A LINE ON VENOM! LET'S SEE, WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO --
--SPIDER-SENSE! SOMEONE COMING THIS WAY!
OKAY, THE DIRECT APPROACH IT IS!


EXCUSE ME!
Hmh?
I SEEM TO BE LOST--!
--COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE YOUR LIVING ALIEN COSTUME DEPARTMENT IS?
WHAT THE--?!
ANOTHER GUARD!
AND MORE COMING OUT OF THAT ELEVATOR!
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED!
WOULD'VE GOTTEN FARTHER IF I'D KEPT A LOW PROFILE!
THWIP
GOTTA REMOVE "DIRECT APPROACH" FROM MY LIST OF OPTIONS! Oh, WELL...


VENOM!
WHERE IS HE?!
FIRST ONE WHO TALKS GETS TO STAY CONSCIOUS!
HOW ANNOYING.
IT APPEARS, MISTER BROCK, THAT YOU HAVE A CHAMPION...
...AND THAT YOU'VE JUST BECOME MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'RE WORTH!
DOCTOR EMERSON, INSTIGATE... REMOVAL PROCE-DURES.
No! T-TRYING TO SEPARATE US. TAKE YOU AWAY... B-BREAK OUR BOND!
STOP IT! S-STOOO
OOAARG
PLK


ATTENTION, SPIDER-MAN! I HAVE SOME NEWS YOU MAY FIND OF INTEREST.
CARLTON DRAKE?! THEN THE LIFE FOUNDATION IS BEHIND ALL THIS?
YOU SAY YOU'VE COME FOR VENOM, UNDOUBTEDLY TO BRING THAT MISCREANT TO JUSTICE. BUT AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE SCREEN BEHIND ME...
...THAT PARTICULAR NECESSITY NO LONGER EXISTS!
EDDIE BROCK... DEAD?!
MAYBE... BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE: SPIDEY WILL WISH HE WAS DEAD WHEN HE RUNS INTO BIG PROBLEMS NEXT ISSUE! ANOTHER SYMBIOTE..?
NAAHH...
FIVE OF 'EM! CHECK IT OUT IN THIRTY DAYS!
R.LIM-DELAROSA

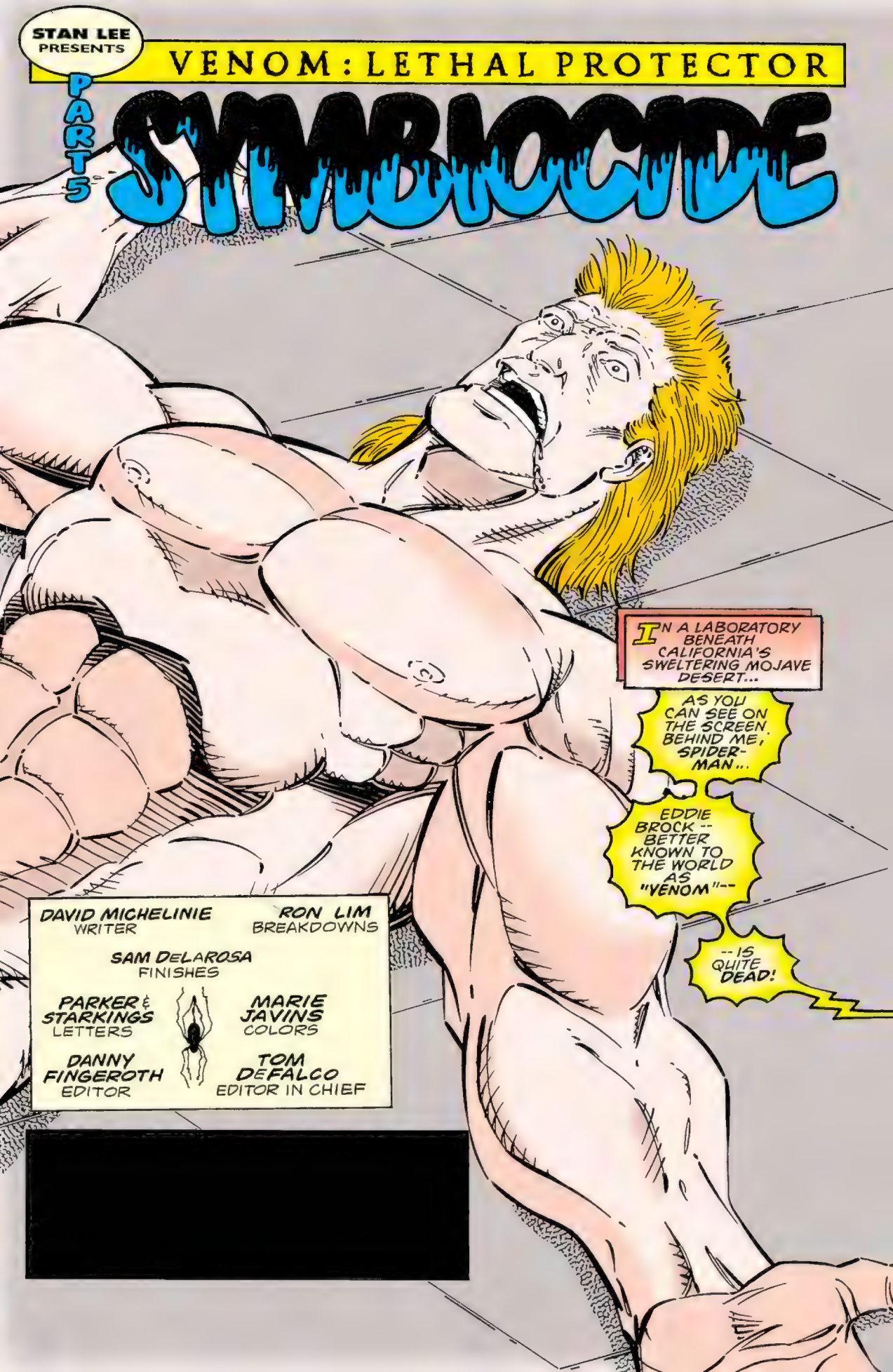
MARVEL
5
JUN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!
FIVE NEW SYMBIOTES VERSUS...
VENOM
LETHAL PROTECTOR
CAN EVEN SPIDER-MAN HELP BEAT THE ODDS?!
BAGLEY
DELAROSA
PART FIVE OF SIX

STAN LEE PRESENTS

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR

PART 5

SYMBIOCIDE


IN A LABORATORY BENEATH CALIFORNIA'S SWELTERING MOJAVE DESERT...
AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE SCREEN BEHIND ME, SPIDER-MAN...
EDDIE BROCK -- BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS "VENOM"--
-- IS QUITE DEAD!

DAVID MICHELINIE
WRITER

RON LIM
BREAKDOWNS

SAM DELAROSA
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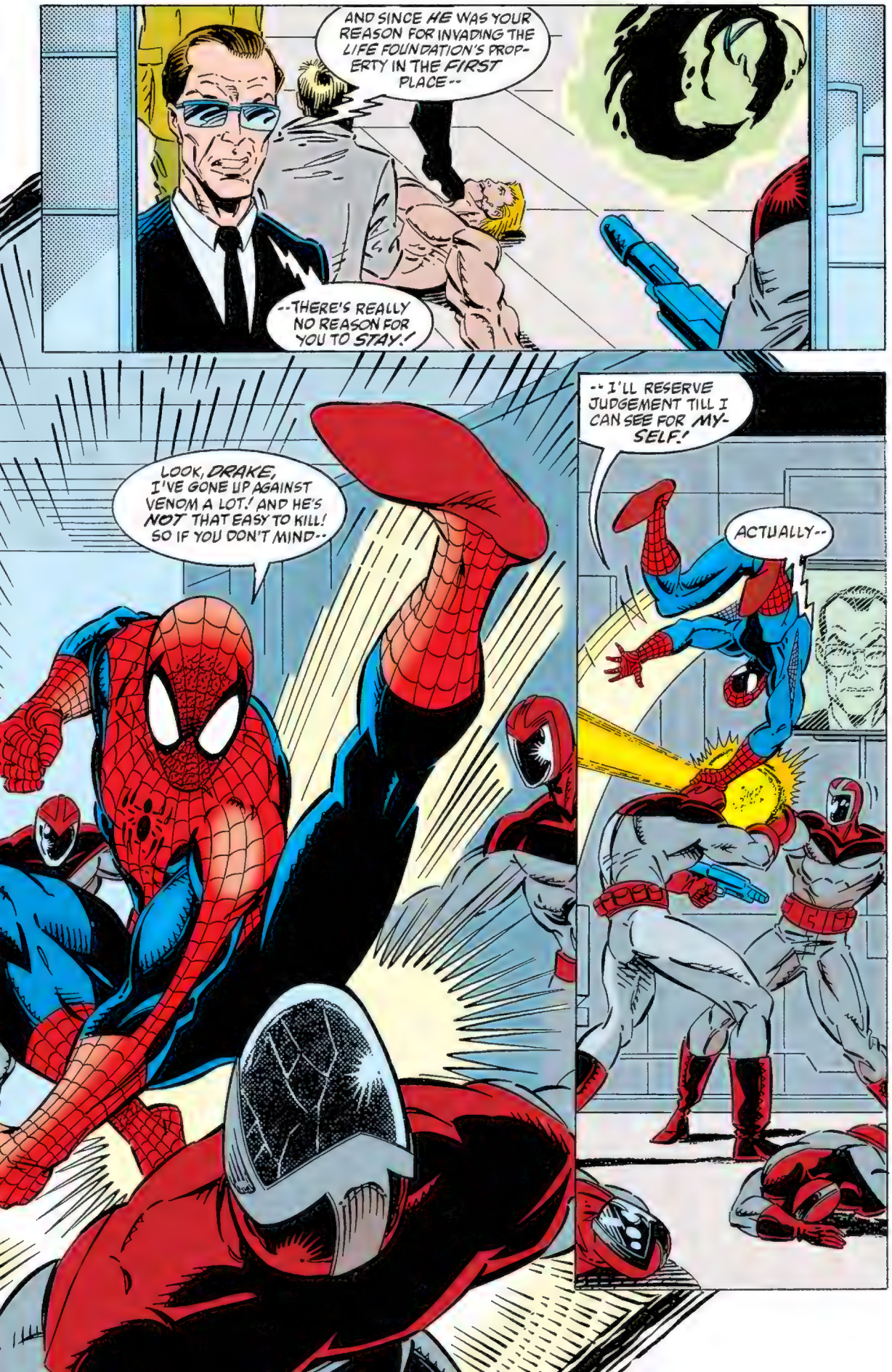
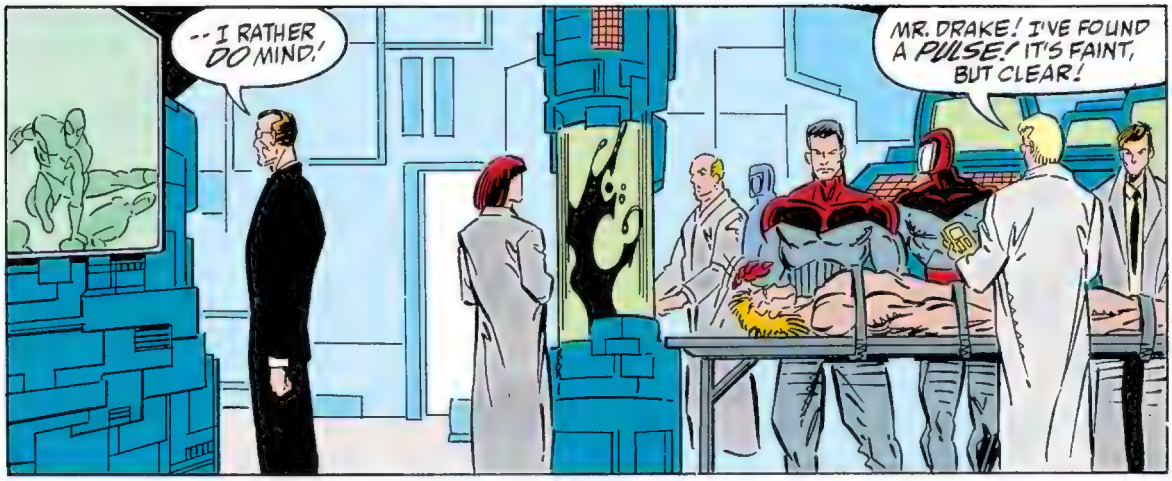
PARKER & STARKINGS
LETTERS

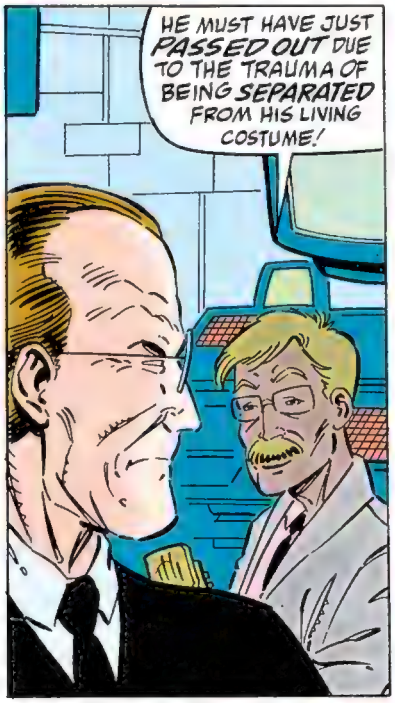
MARIE JAVINS
COLORS

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

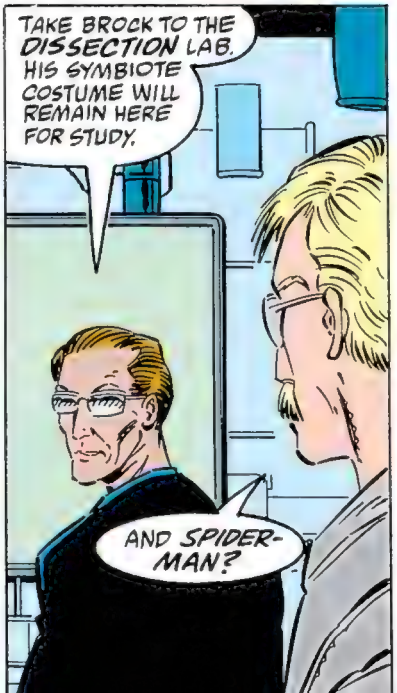

AND SINCE HE WAS YOUR REASON FOR INVADING THE LIFE FOUNDATION'S PROPERTY IN THE FIRST PLACE--
--THERE'S REALLY NO REASON FOR YOU TO STAY!
LOOK, DRAKE, I'VE GONE UP AGAINST VENOM A LOT! AND HE'S NOT THAT EASY TO KILL! SO IF YOU DON'T MIND--
--I'LL RESERVE JUDGEMENT TILL I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF!
ACTUALLY--

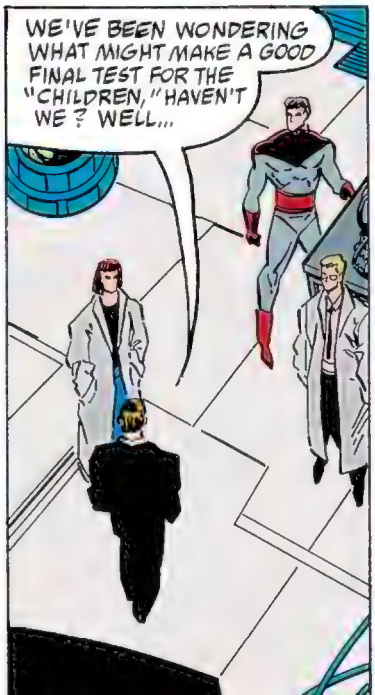

--I RATHER DO MIND!
MR. DRAKE! I'VE FOUND A PULSE! IT'S FAINT, BUT CLEAR!

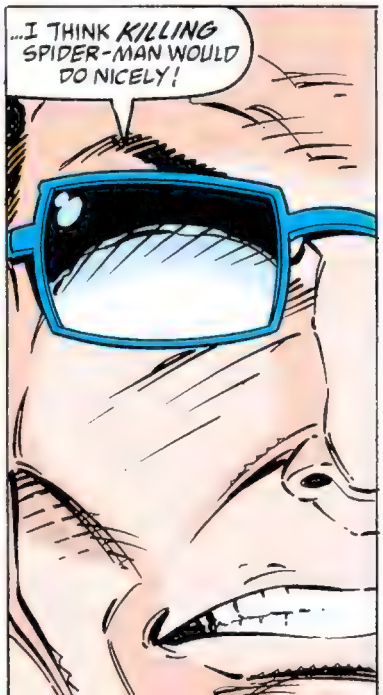

HE MUST HAVE JUST PASSED OUT DUE TO THE TRAUMA OF BEING SEPARATED FROM HIS LIVING COSTUME!

TOLD YA!
NYAH-NYAH!

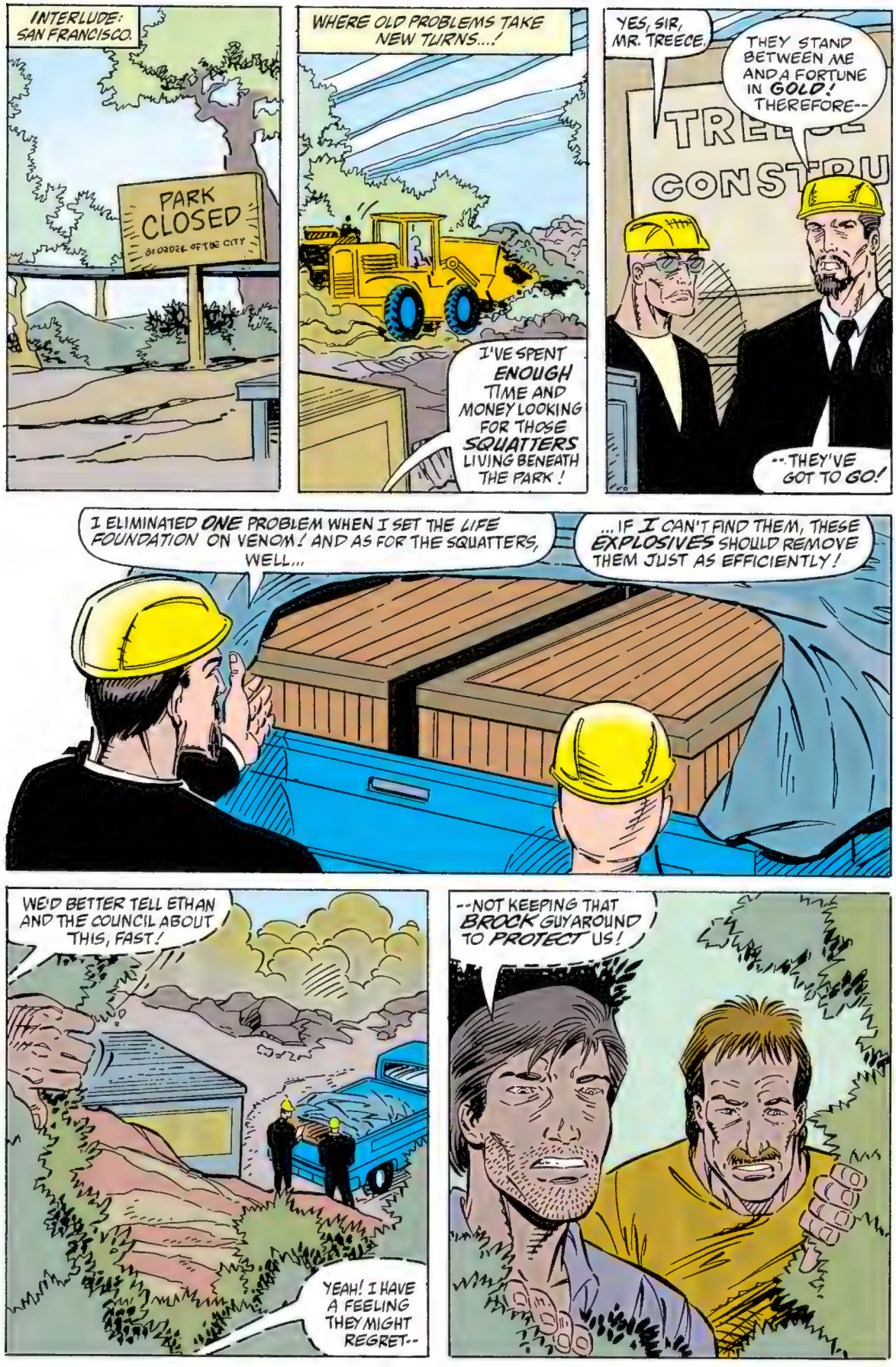
BWI

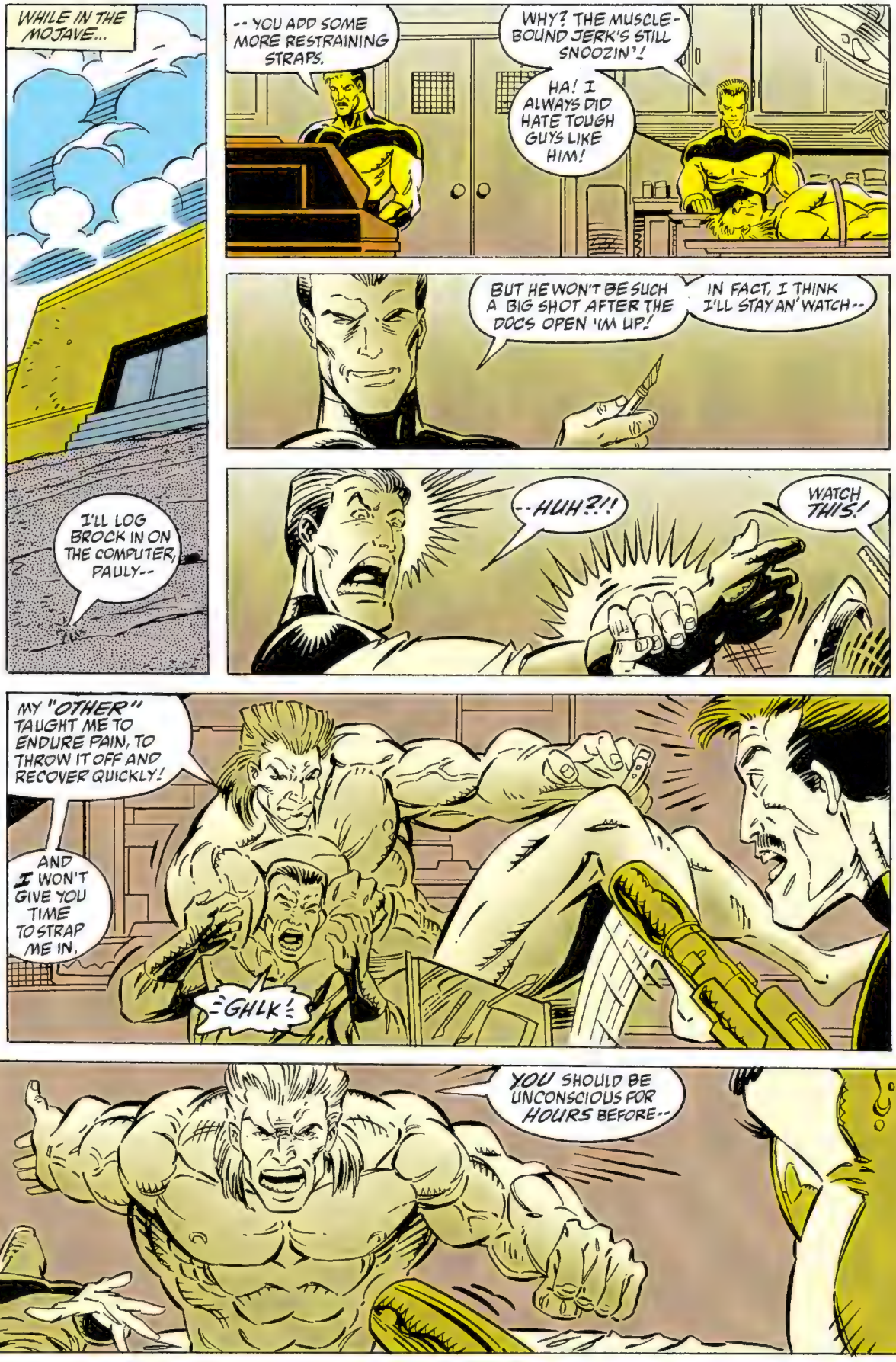

TAKE BROCK TO THE DISSECTION LAB. HIS SYMBIOTE COSTUME WILL REMAIN HERE FOR STUDY.
AND SPIDER-MAN?


WE'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT MIGHT MAKE A GOOD FINAL TEST FOR THE "CHILDREN," HAVEN'T WE? WELL...

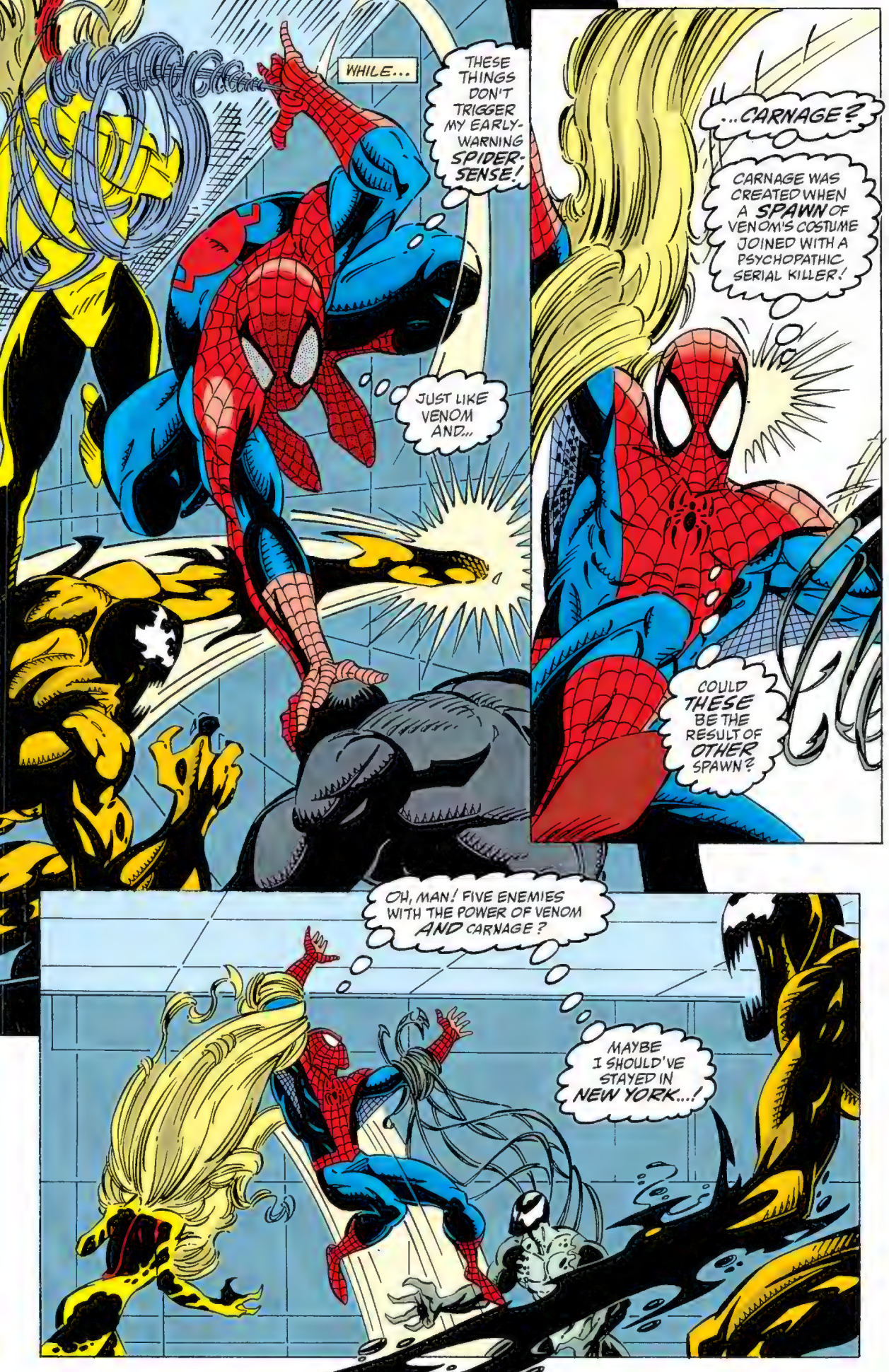

...I THINK KILLING SPIDER-MAN WOULD DO NICELY!

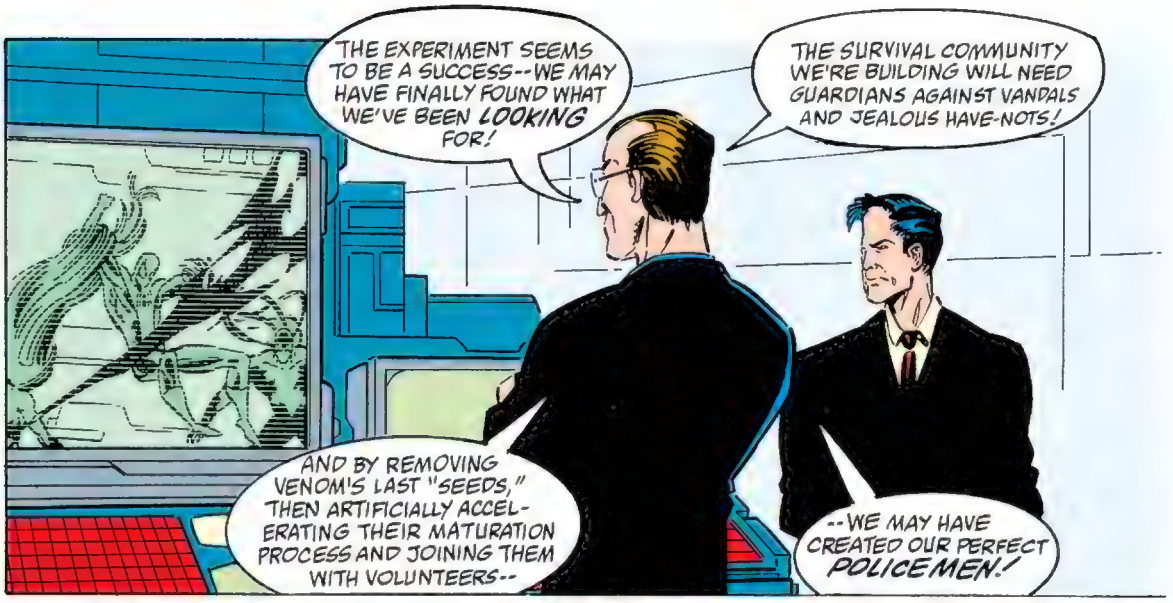
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE GUARDS--BUT WHAT ABOUT EDDIE BROCK?
HE MAY BE ALIVE NOW, BUT UNLESS I CAN FIND--
WAIT..!
SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING!
THAT DOOR! THOSE EYES!
VENOM?
NO!
HELP!
F-F-F-FIVE VENOMS!!!

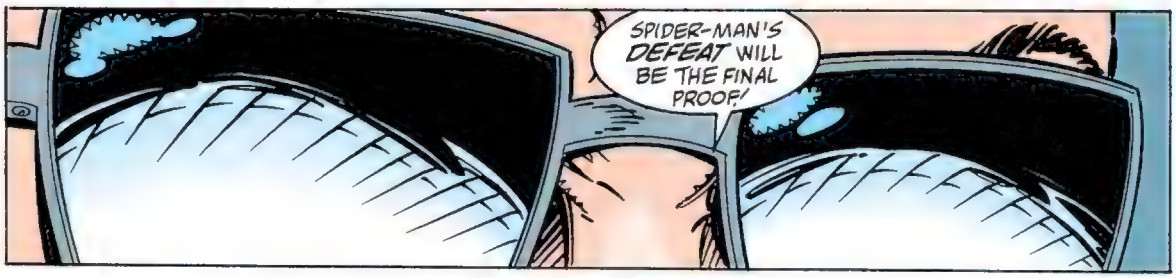

INTERLUDE: SAN FRANCISCO.
PARK CLOSED
BY ORDER OF THE CITY
WHERE OLD PROBLEMS TAKE NEW TURNS...!
I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME AND MONEY LOOKING FOR THOSE SQUATTERS LIVING BENEATH THE PARK!
YES, SIR, MR. TREECE.
THEY STAND BETWEEN ME AND A FORTUNE IN GOLD! THEREFORE--
CONSTRU
--THEY'VE GOT TO GO!
I ELIMINATED ONE PROBLEM WHEN I SET THE LIFE FOUNDATION ON VENOM! AND AS FOR THE SQUATTERS, WELL...
...IF I CAN'T FIND THEM, THESE EXPLOSIVES SHOULD REMOVE THEM JUST AS EFFICIENTLY!
WE'D BETTER TELL ETHAN AND THE COUNCIL ABOUT THIS, FAST!
YEAH! I HAVE A FEELING THEY MIGHT REGRET--
--NOT KEEPING THAT BROCK GUY AROUND TO PROTECT US!

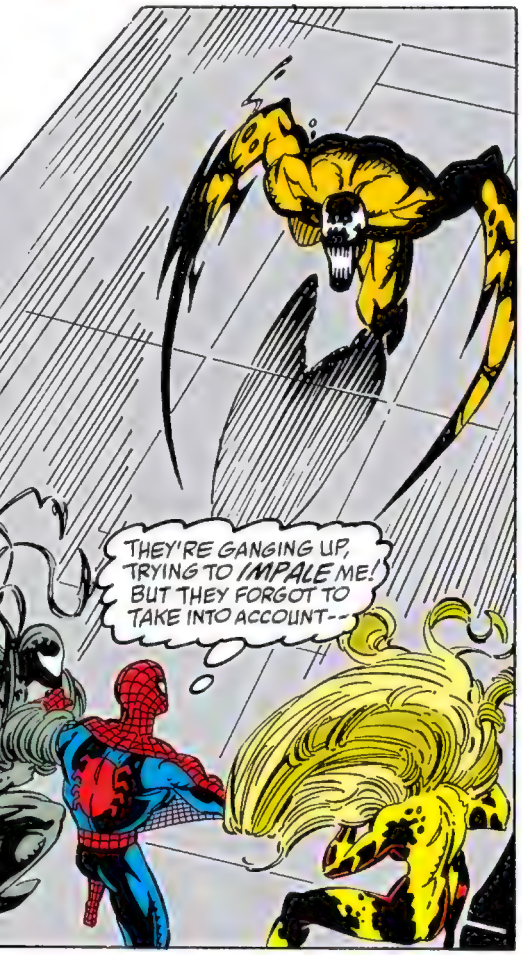

WHILE IN THE MOJAVE...
I'LL LOG BROCK IN ON THE COMPUTER, PAULY--
-- YOU ADD SOME MORE RESTRAINING STRAPS.
WHY? THE MUSCLE-BOUND JERK'S STILL SNOOZIN'!
HA! I ALWAYS DID HATE TOUGH GUYS LIKE HIM!
BUT HE WON'T BE SUCH A BIG SHOT AFTER THE DOCS OPEN 'IM UP!
IN FACT, I THINK I'LL STAY AN' WATCH--
--HUH?!!
WATCH THIS!
MY "OTHER" TAUGHT ME TO ENDURE PAIN, TO THROW IT OFF AND RECOVER QUICKLY!
AND I WON'T GIVE YOU TIME TO STRAP ME IN.
=GHLK!
YOU SHOULD BE UNCONSCIOUS FOR HOURS BEFORE--

--NO! S-S-SONIC GUN! ARE THOSE BLASTED THINGS EVERYWHERE?
CERTAIN FREQUENCIES... ARE ONE OF THE FEW THINGS... THAT CAN CAUSE MY "OTHER" AGONY!
B-BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... YOU SHOULD KNOW!
WITHOUT MY "OTHER'S" ALIEN FORM... L-LINKED TO MY OWN METABOLISM...
THOSE FREQUENCIES DON'T HURT ME AT ALL!
GOTCHA!


WHILE...
THESE THINGS DON'T TRIGGER MY EARLY-WARNING SPIDER-SENSE!
JUST LIKE VENOM AND...
...CARNAGE?
CARNAGE WAS CREATED WHEN A SPAWN OF VENOM'S COSTUME JOINED WITH A PSYCHOPATHIC SERIAL KILLER!
COULD THESE BE THE RESULT OF OTHER SPAWN?
OH, MAN! FIVE ENEMIES WITH THE POWER OF VENOM AND CARNAGE?
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN NEW YORK...!

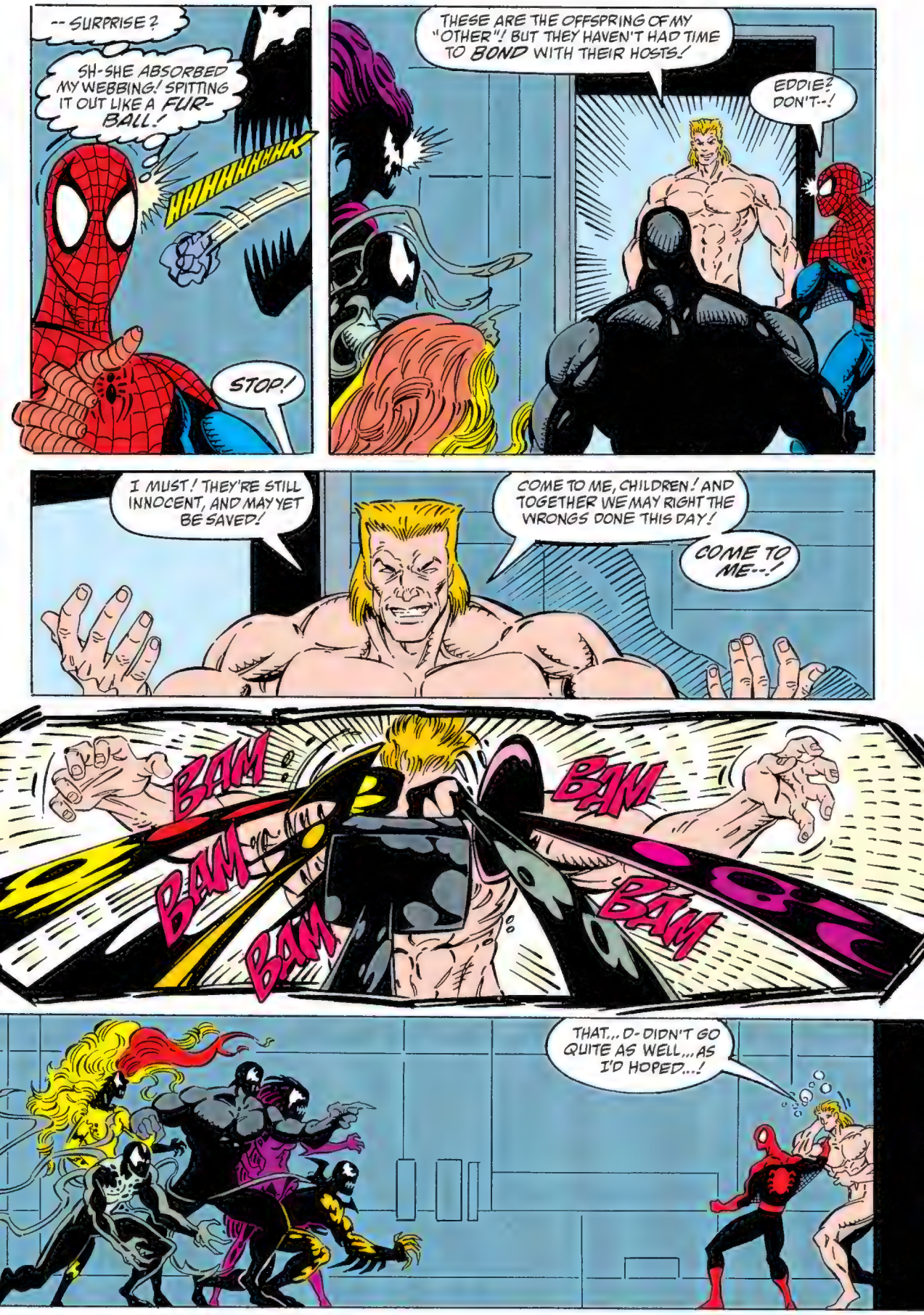

THE EXPERIMENT SEEMS TO BE A SUCCESS--WE MAY HAVE FINALLY FOUND WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
THE SURVIVAL COMMUNITY WE'RE BUILDING WILL NEED GUARDIANS AGAINST VANDALS AND JEALOUS HAVE-NOTS!
AND BY REMOVING VENOM'S LAST "SEEDS," THEN ARTIFICIALLY ACCELERATING THEIR MATURATION PROCESS AND JOINING THEM WITH VOLUNTEERS--
--WE MAY HAVE CREATED OUR PERFECT POLICEMEN!

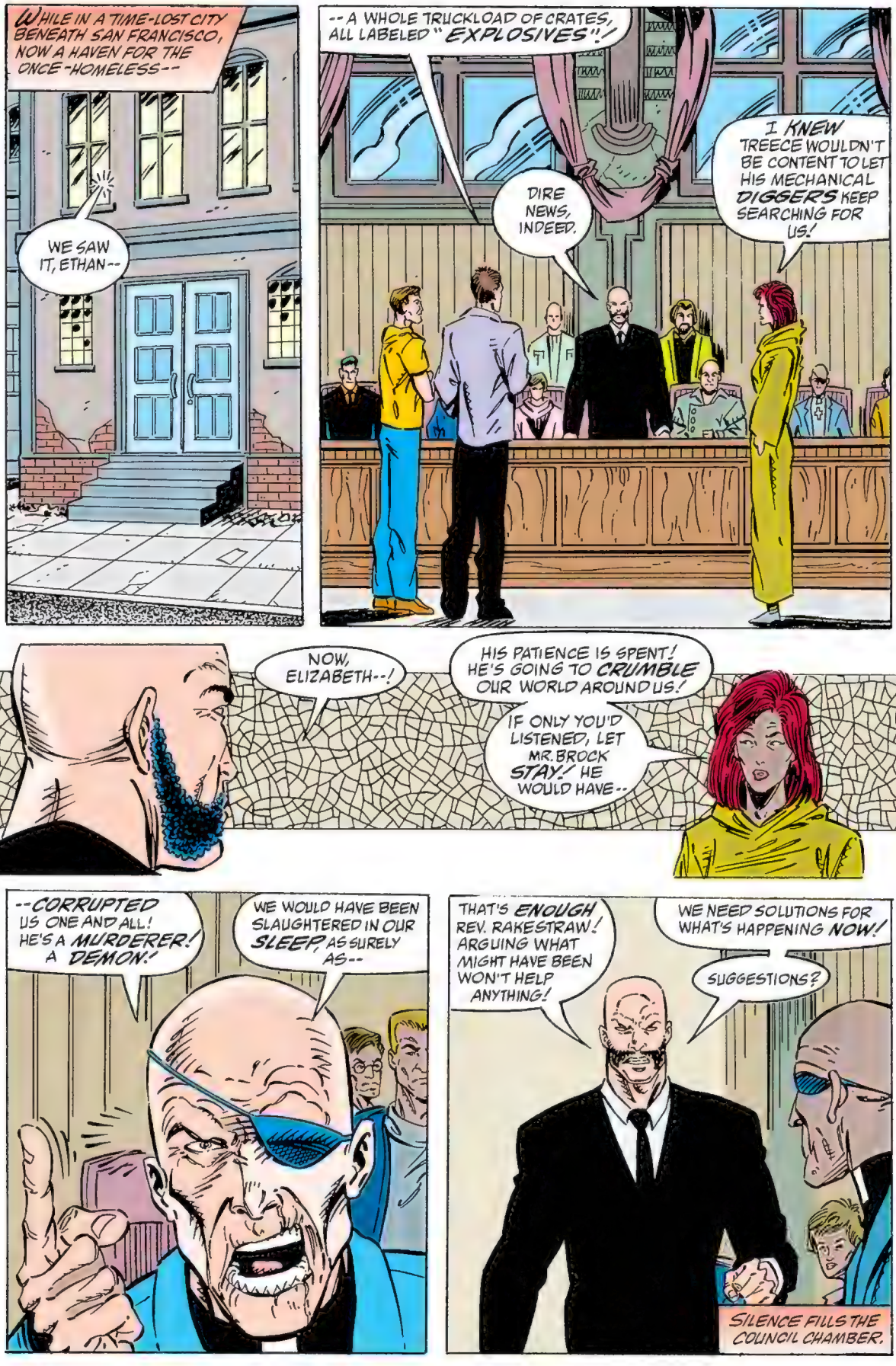

SPIDER-MAN'S DEFEAT WILL BE THE FINAL PROOF!

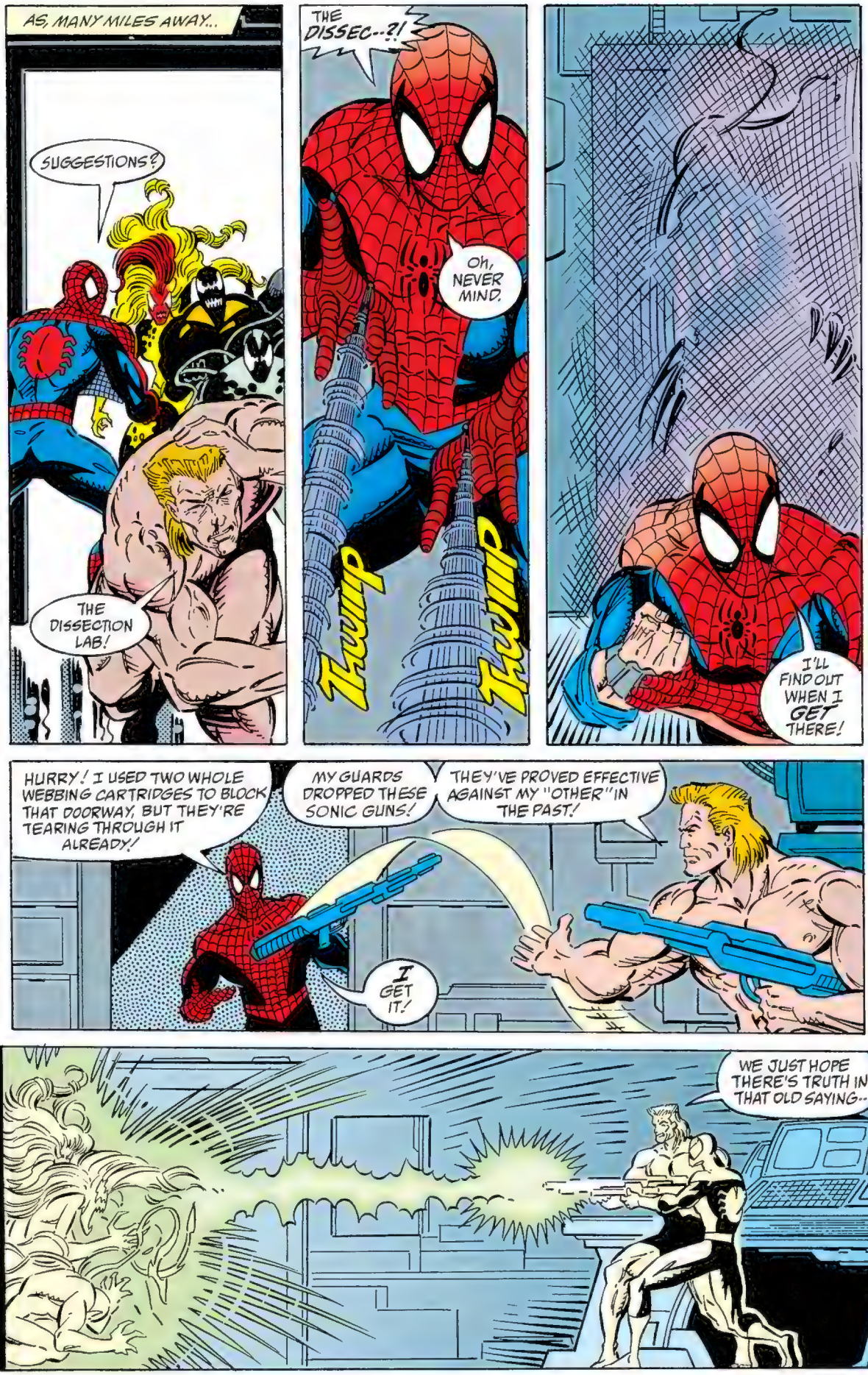

THEY'RE GANGING UP, TRYING TO IMPALE ME! BUT THEY FORGOT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT--

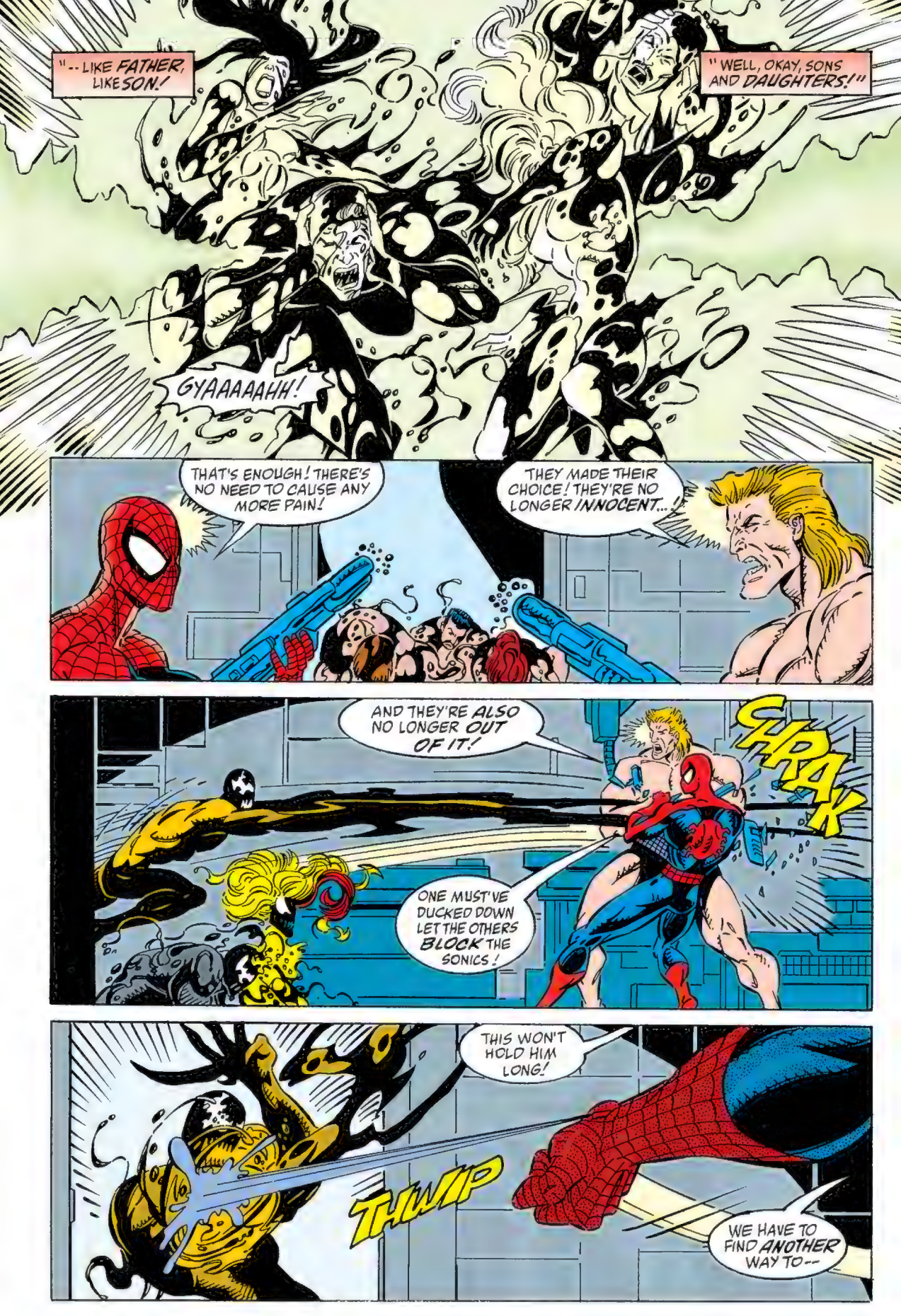
-- MY SPIDER-STRENGTH!
PHWOB

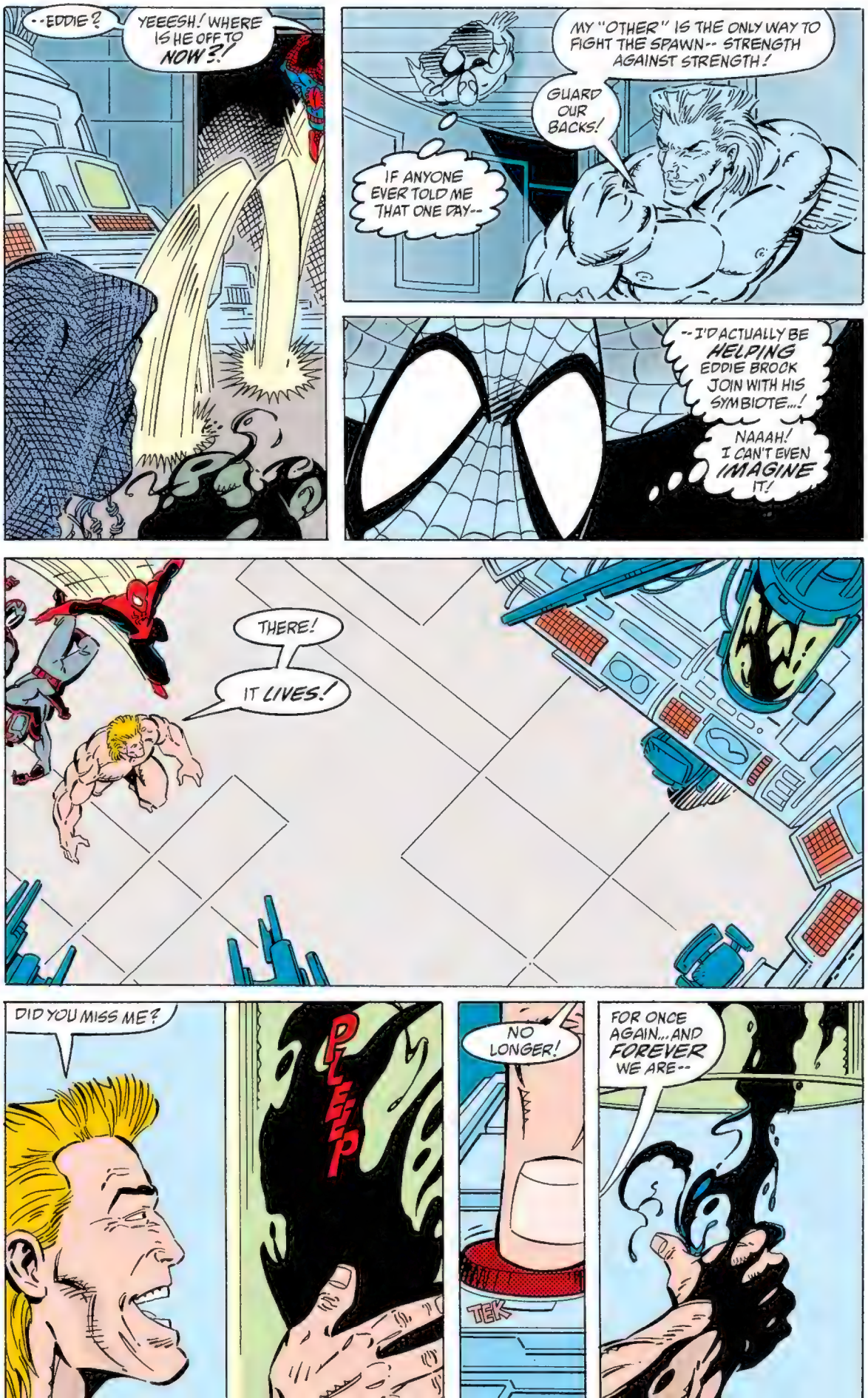
TSSSSSS
WHOA! ONE OF THEM'S SLINGING BITS OF ITS SUBSTANCE--
--BURNING THE WALL!
THAT'S A NEW TRICK!
MUST BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE ITS METABOLISM, TURN ITS BODY TO ACID!
GHOOM
BUT THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NEW AT THIS! KEEP LEAVING THEMSELVES OPEN!
THWIP
THWIP
WHILE I'VE GOT EXPERIENCE ON MYSIDE!
AND THAT GIVES ME THE ADVANTAGE OF--
BLOK

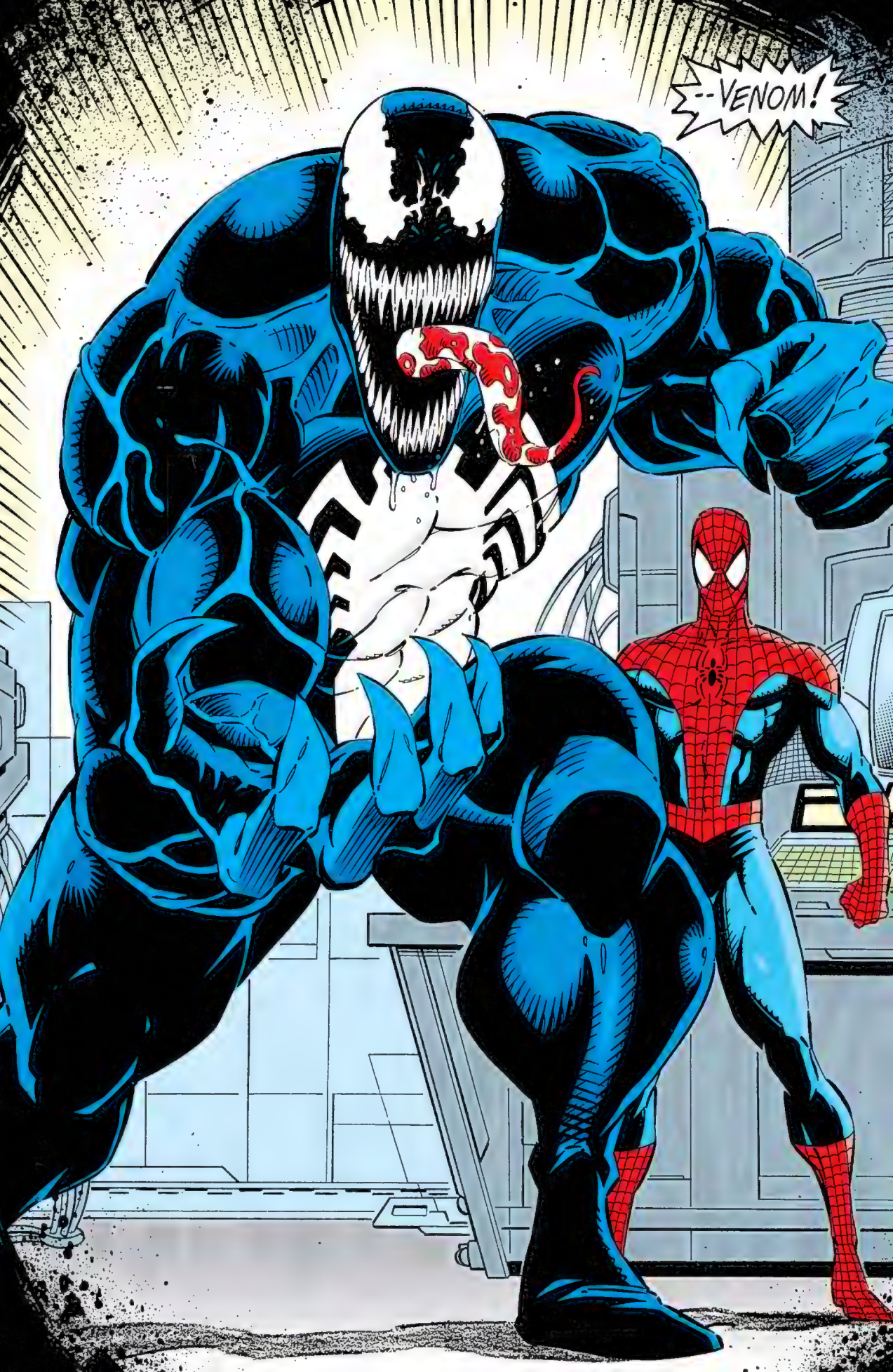

-- SURPRISE?
SH-SHE ABSORBED MY WEBBING! SPITTING IT OUT LIKE A FUR-BALL!
HHHHHHHHK
STOP!
THESE ARE THE OFFSPRING OF MY "OTHER"! BUT THEY HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO BOND WITH THEIR HOSTS!
EDDIE? DON'T--!
I MUST! THEY'RE STILL INNOCENT, AND MAY YET BE SAVED!
COME TO ME, CHILDREN! AND TOGETHER WE MAY RIGHT THE WRONGS DONE THIS DAY!
COME TO ME--!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
THAT... D-DIDN'T GO QUITE AS WELL... AS I'D HOPED...!


WHILE IN A TIME-LOST CITY BENEATH SAN FRANCISCO, NOW A HAVEN FOR THE ONCE-HOMELESS--
WE SAW IT, ETHAN--
--A WHOLE TRUCKLOAD OF CRATES, ALL LABELED "EXPLOSIVES"!/
DIRE NEWS, INDEED.
I KNEW TREECE WOULDN'T BE CONTENT TO LET HIS MECHANICAL DIGGERS KEEP SEARCHING FOR US!
NOW, ELIZABETH--!
HIS PATIENCE IS SPENT! HE'S GOING TO CRUMBLE OUR WORLD AROUND US!
IF ONLY YOU'D LISTENED, LET MR. BROCK STAY! HE WOULD HAVE--
--CORRUPTED US ONE AND ALL! HE'S A MURDERER! A DEMON!
WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED IN OUR SLEEP, AS SURELY AS--
THAT'S ENOUGH REV. RAKESTRAW! ARGUING WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WON'T HELP ANYTHING!
WE NEED SOLUTIONS FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!
SUGGESTIONS?
SILENCE FILLS THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.


AS, MANY MILES AWAY..
SUGGESTIONS?
THE DISSECTION LAB!
THE DISSEC--?!
Oh, NEVER MIND.
TWIMP
TWIMP
I'LL FIND OUT WHEN I GET THERE!
HURRY! I USED TWO WHOLE WEBBING CARTRIDGES TO BLOCK THAT DOORWAY, BUT THEY'RE TEARING THROUGH IT ALREADY!
MY GUARDS DROPPED THESE SONIC GUNS!
THEY'VE PROVED EFFECTIVE AGAINST MY "OTHER" IN THE PAST!
I GET IT!
WE JUST HOPE THERE'S TRUTH IN THAT OLD SAYING..

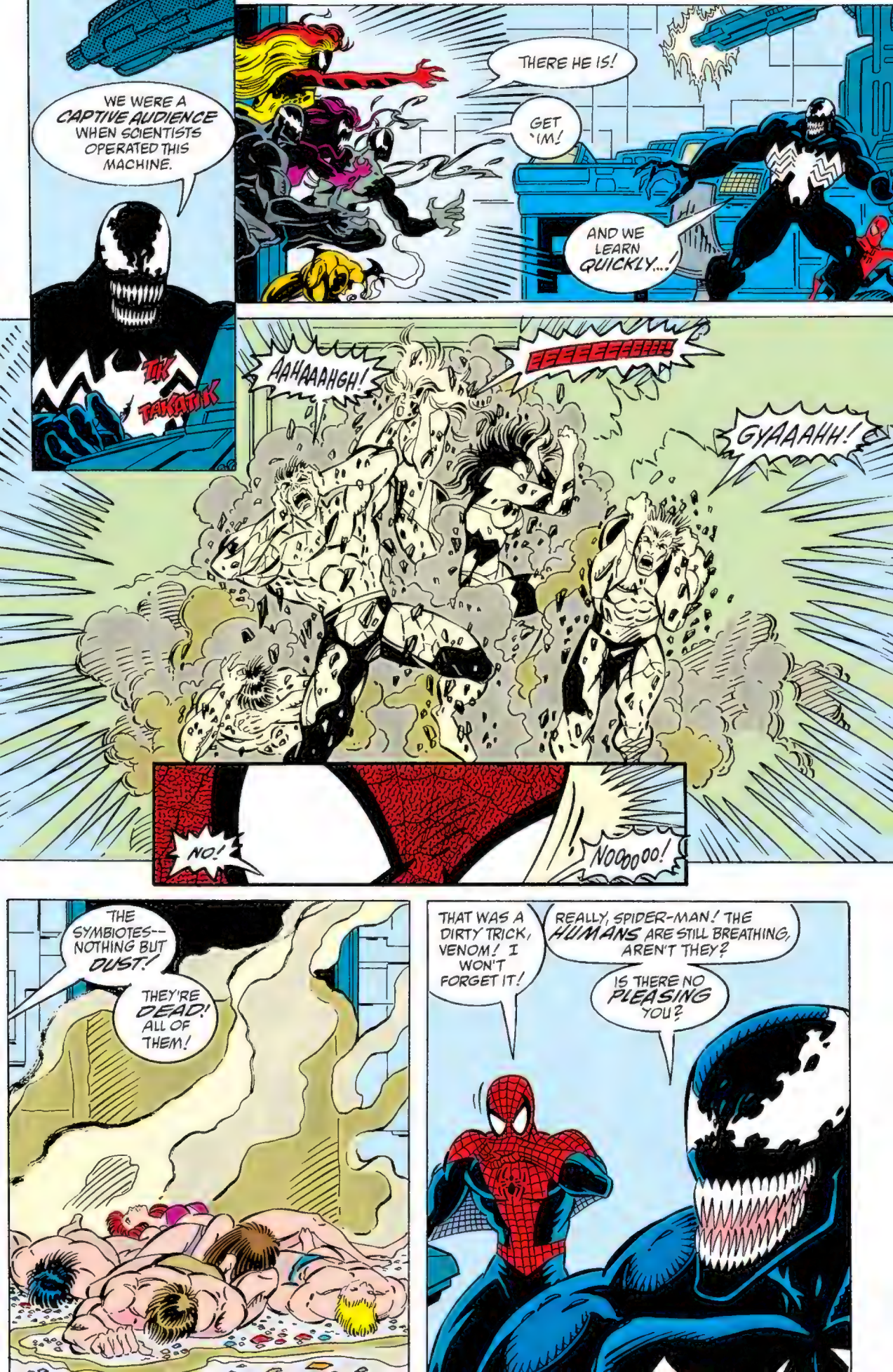

"--LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON!
"WELL, OKAY, SONS AND DAUGHTERS!"
GYAAAAAHH!
THAT'S ENOUGH! THERE'S NO NEED TO CAUSE ANY MORE PAIN!
THEY MADE THEIR CHOICE! THEY'RE NO LONGER INNOCENT...!
AND THEY'RE ALSO NO LONGER OUT OF IT!
CHRAK
ONE MUST'VE DUCKED DOWN LET THE OTHERS BLOCK THE SONICS!
THIS WON'T HOLD HIM LONG!
THWIP
WE HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO--

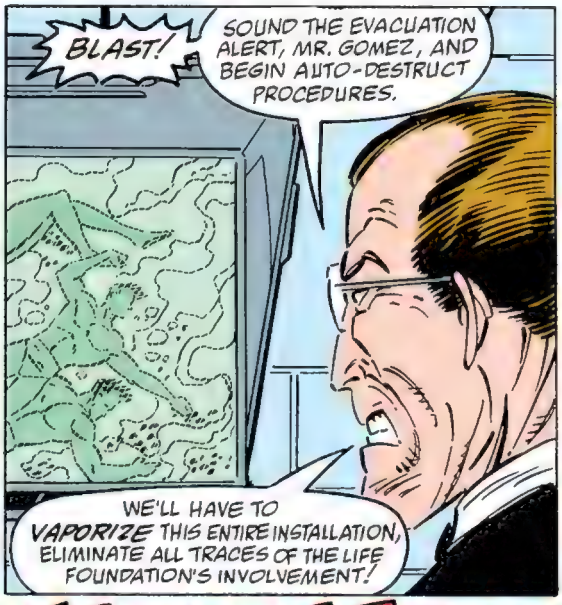

--EDDIE?
YEEESH! WHERE IS HE OFF TO NOW?!
MY "OTHER" IS THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT THE SPAWN-- STRENGTH AGAINST STRENGTH!
GUARD OUR BACKS!
IF ANYONE EVER TOLD ME THAT ONE DAY--
--I'D ACTUALLY BE HELPING EDDIE BROCK JOIN WITH HIS SYMBIOTE...!
NAAAH! I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT!
THERE!
IT LIVES!
DID YOU MISS ME?
PLEEP
NO LONGER!
TEK
FOR ONCE AGAIN... AND FOREVER WE ARE--

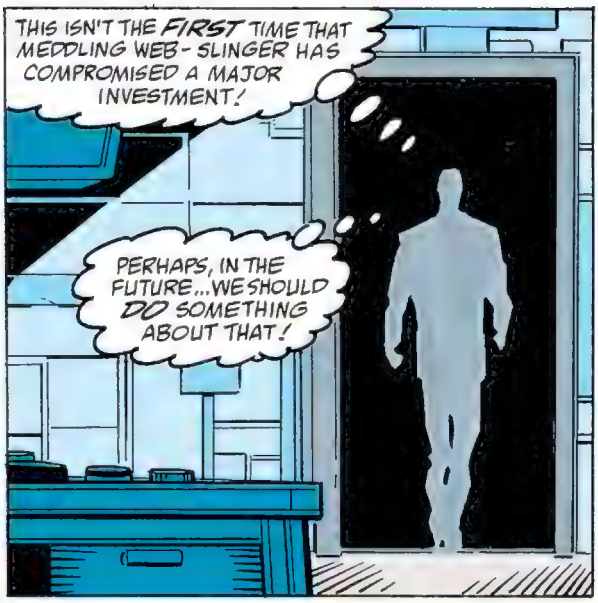

--VENOM!

FOREVER'S A LONG TIME, CREEP!
THE FIFTH GUARDIAN, THE ONE THAT AVOIDED THE SONICS!
BUT... WHY FIGHT HIM WHEN YOU CAN TRAP HIM? SPIDER-MAN, THAT CONSOLE BEHIND YOU--!
IT CONTROLS THE SOUND CAGE THAT HELD US BEFORE YOU GOT HERE!
ACTIVATE IT, AND WE'LL THROW THIS UPSTART IN!
EASY TO SAY! THESE BUTTONS AREN'T LABELED, JUST NUMBERED!
WHICH ONE DO I PUSH? WHICH--?!
Ahhhhh, NUTS!
TIK
SKREEEEEE

M-MY COSTUME! SMOLDERING!
R-R-ROTTING AWAY?!?
AAGGH!
YOU HIT THE WRONG CONTROL, STARTED THE MACHINE THAT ARTIFICIALLY MATURED THE ALIEN SPAWN!
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKS ON ADULTS, TOO!
IT AGED PART OF THAT ONE TO THE POINT OF DECAY!
THAT'S IT!
WE'LL WIDEN THE BEAM AND USE IT ON ALL OF THEM, DESTROY THEM BEFORE THEY CAN HARM MORE INNOCENTS!
BUT THAT MIGHT KILL THE HUMANS INSIDE!
THEY PROBABY HAVEN'T BONDED COMPLETELY--THE HOSTS SHOULD SURVIVE!
"PROBABLY"? "SHOULD"?! SORRY, VENOM, WE CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!
YOU MEAN... YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!
WHA--?! S-SNAKED A COSTUME TENDRIL >GHK< AROUND BEHIND ME!
Uuuuuuuuuuh...
WE KEPT OUR WORD--WE SWORE WE WOULDN'T KILL YOU.* BUT WE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NOT RENDERING YOU UNCONSCIOUS!
*IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375.--D.


WE WERE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE WHEN SCIENTISTS OPERATED THIS MACHINE.
TIK TAKATIK
THERE HE IS!
GET 'IM!
AND WE LEARN QUICKLY...!
AAHAAAHGH!
EEEEEEEEEEE!!!
GYAAAHH!
NO!
NOOOOOO!
THE SYMBIOTES-- NOTHING BUT DUST!
THEY'RE DEAD! ALL OF THEM!
THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK, VENOM! I WON'T FORGET IT!
REALLY, SPIDER-MAN! THE HUMANS ARE STILL BREATHING, AREN'T THEY?
IS THERE NO PLEASING YOU?


BLAST!
SOUND THE EVACUATION ALERT, MR. GOMEZ, AND BEGIN AUTO-DESTRUCT PROCEDURES.
WE'LL HAVE TO VAPORIZE THIS ENTIRE INSTALLATION, ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION'S INVOLVEMENT!


THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THAT MEDDLING WEB-SLINGER HAS COMPROMISED A MAJOR INVESTMENT!
PERHAPS, IN THE FUTURE...WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!

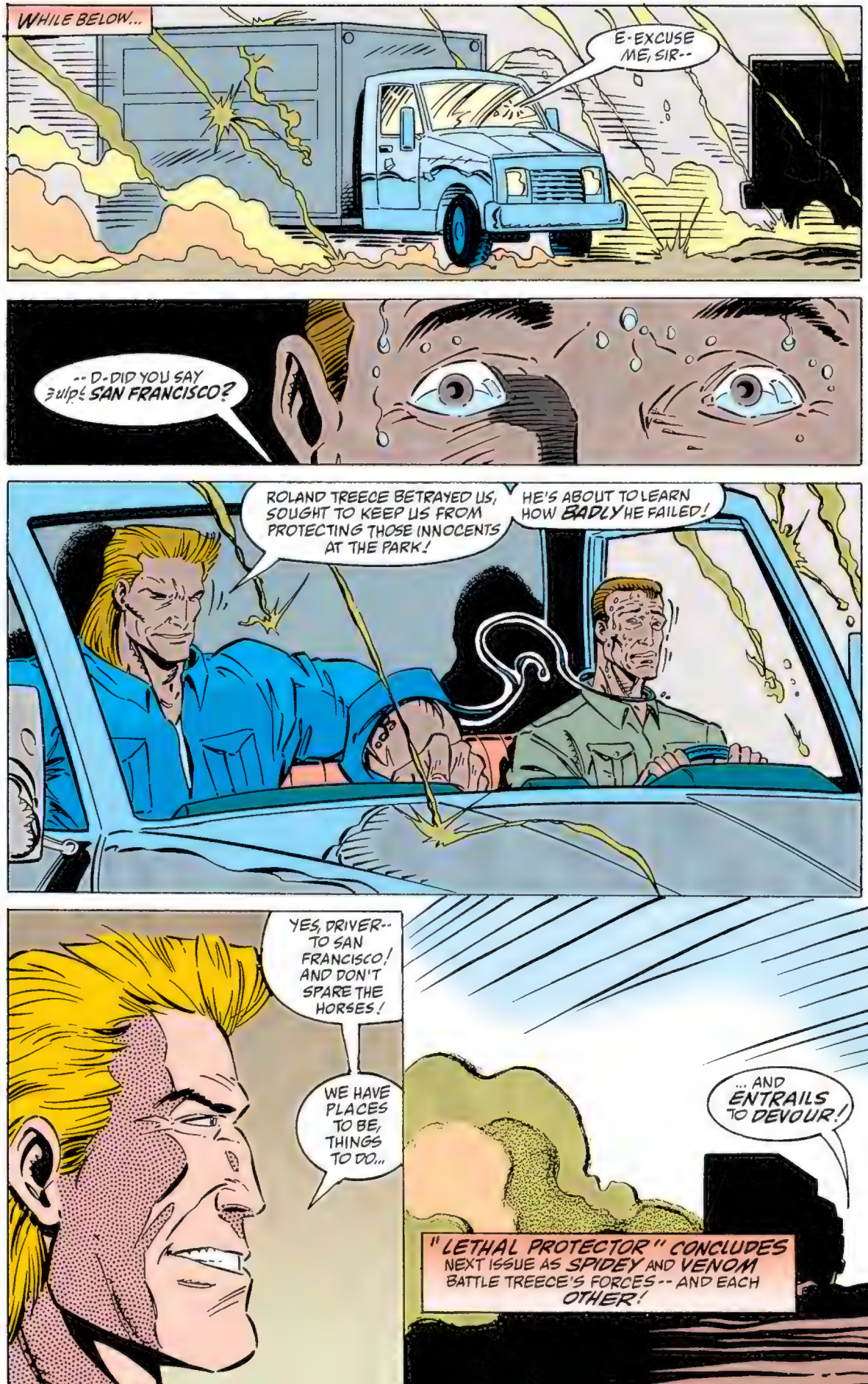
BREET BREET
UH-OH! I'VE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH THESE GUYS! WHEN THINGS DON'T GO THEIR WAY--
--THEY TEND TO BLOW THINGS UP!

COME ON! I STOWED AWAY ON A 'COPTER TO GET IN HERE, AND I THINK I CAN FIND THE HANGAR AGAIN!

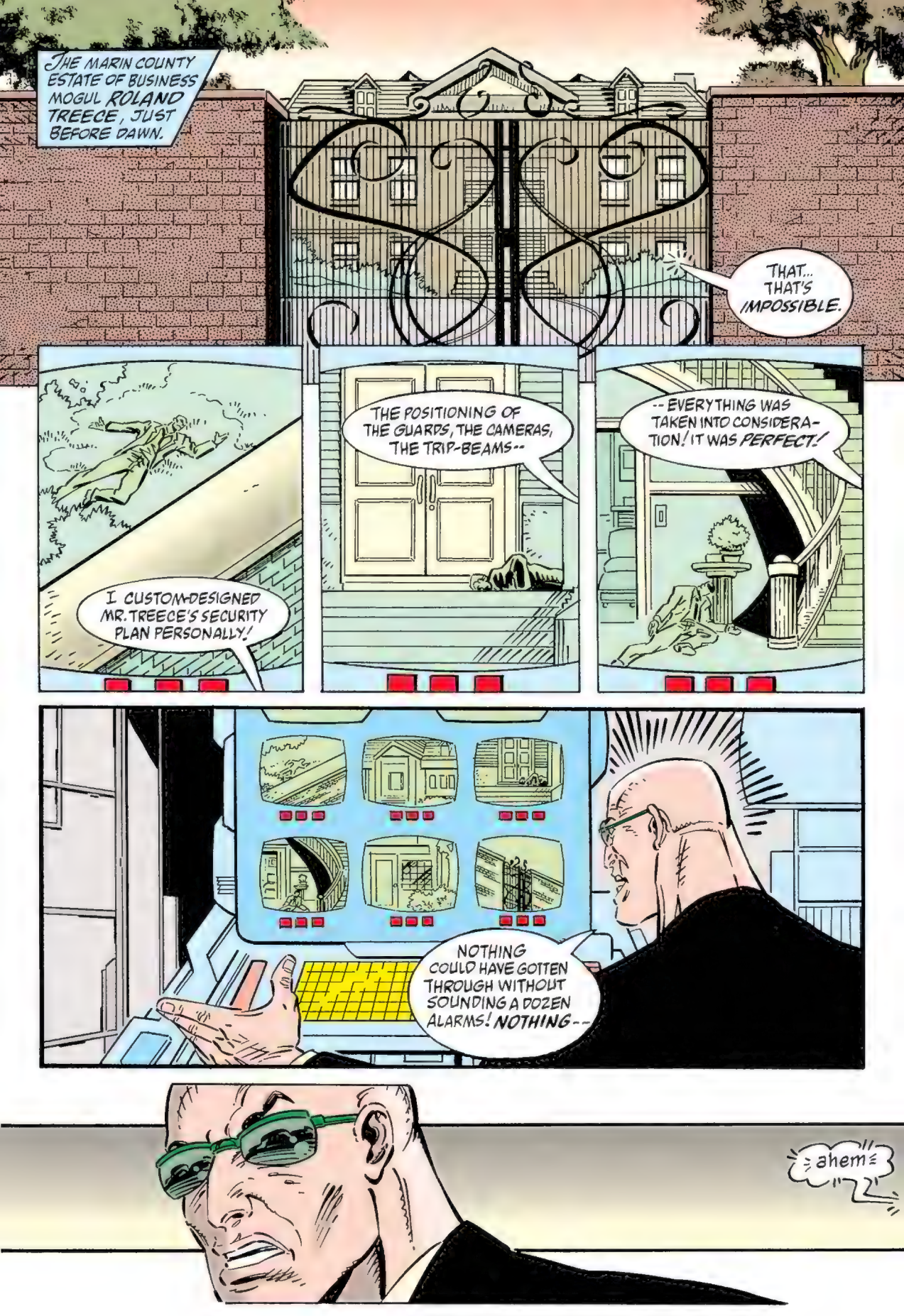
THIS MAY WORK OUT YET! I CAME TO CALIFORNIA TO NAB VENOM!
AND IF I CAN TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE ONCE WE'RE FREE, I CAN TURN HIM OVER TO--

--NO! HE'S NOT BEHIND ME ANYMORE!
THAT SUCKER MAY BE CRAZY... BUT HE'S NOT STUPID!

MOMENTS LATER, A FLEET OF FUTURISTIC FLYING CRAFT RISES INTO THE AIR, WHILE CONVOYS OF LAND VEHICLES SPEED AWAY IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
AND, SHORT SECONDS AFTER THAT...
PHASSSH
MADE IT!
AND I'D BET MY LEFT WEB-SHOOTER THAT VENOM GOT AWAY, TOO!
WHICH MEANS I'D BETTER MAKE MY WAY BACK TO SAN FRANCISCO.
THIS ISN'T FINISHED YET...!

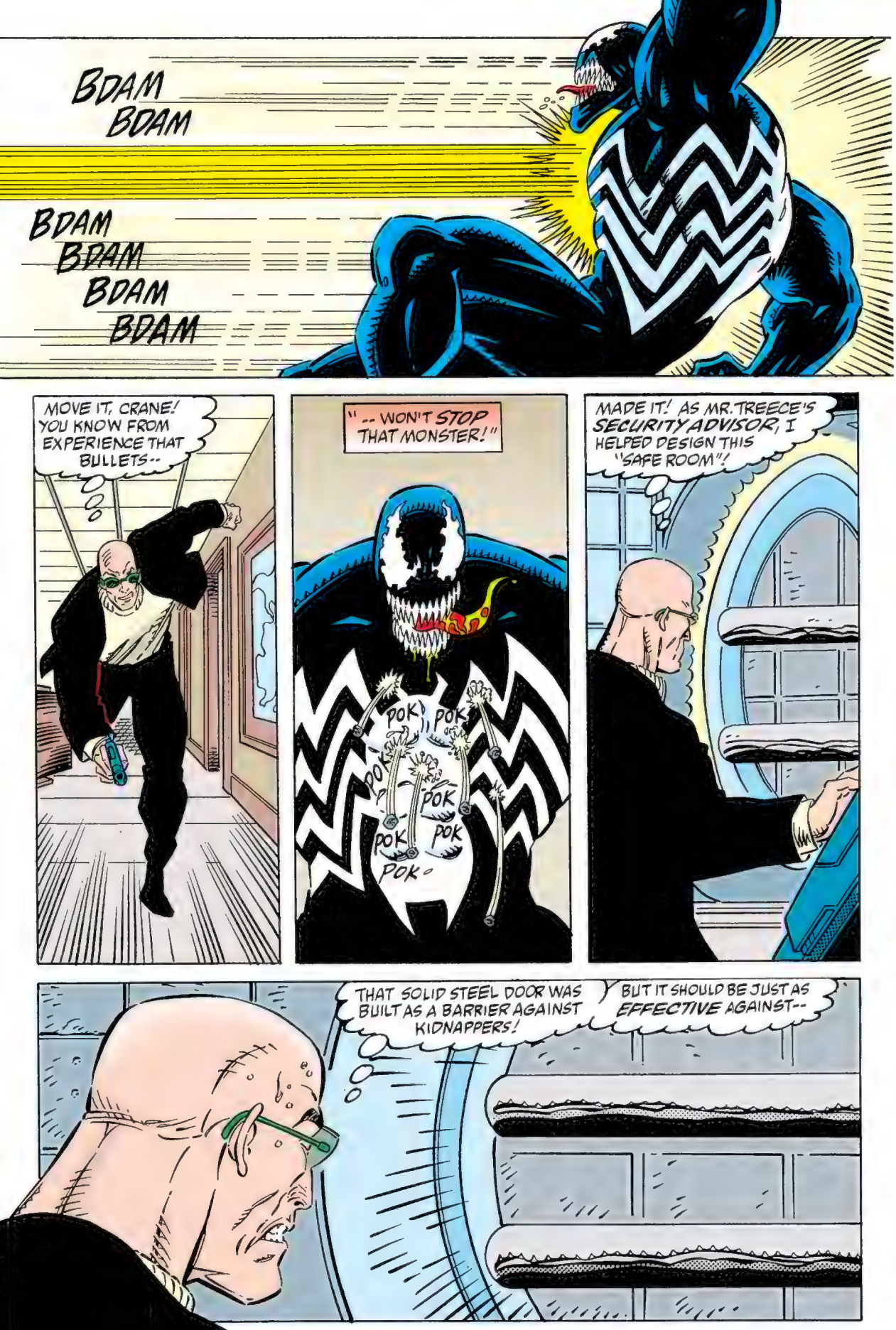

WHILE BELOW...
E-EXCUSE ME, SIR--
-- D-DID YOU SAY SAN FRANCISCO?
ROLAND TREECE BETRAYED US, SOUGHT TO KEEP US FROM PROTECTING THOSE INNOCENTS AT THE PARK!
HE'S ABOUT TO LEARN HOW BADLY HE FAILED!
YES, DRIVER-- TO SAN FRANCISCO! AND DON'T SPARE THE HORSES!
WE HAVE PLACES TO BE, THINGS TO DO...
... AND ENTRAILS TO DEVOUR!
"LETHAL PROTECTOR" CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE AS SPIDEY AND VENOM BATTLE TREECE'S FORCES -- AND EACH OTHER!

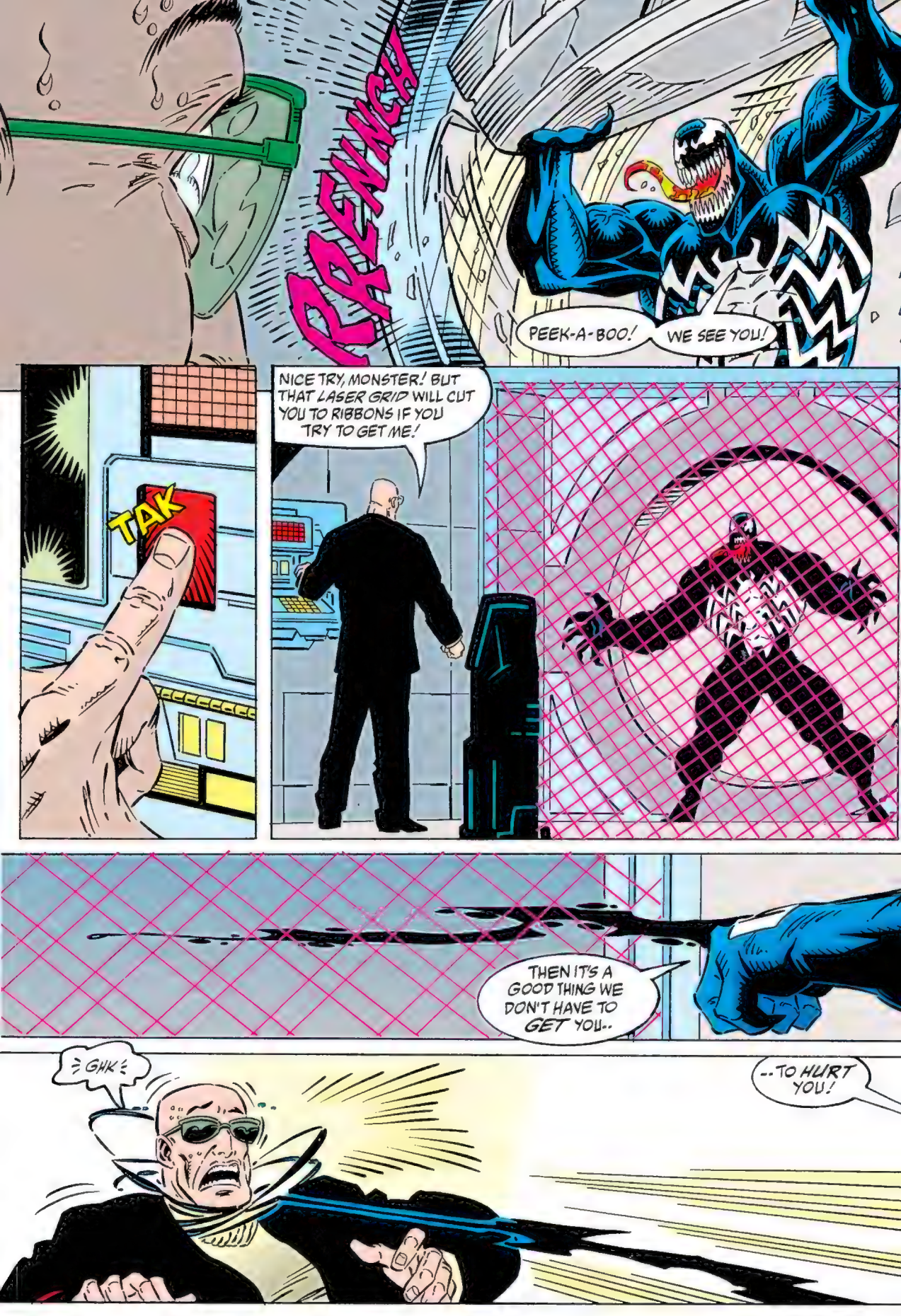
MARVEL COMICS
VENOM
THE CHILLING CONCLUSION!
LETHAL PROTECTOR
6
JUL
01202
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IT'S NOT THEIR FINAL BATTLE--
--BUT IT JUST MIGHT BE THEIR GREATEST!
BAGLEY
DELAROSA


THE MARIN COUNTY ESTATE OF BUSINESS MOGUL ROLAND TREECE, JUST BEFORE DAWN.
THAT... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I CUSTOM-DESIGNED MR. TREECE'S SECURITY PLAN PERSONALLY!
THE POSITIONING OF THE GUARDS, THE CAMERAS, THE TRIP-BEAMS--
--EVERYTHING WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION! IT WAS PERFECT!
NOTHING COULD HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH WITHOUT SOUNDING A DOZEN ALARMS! NOTHING--
ahem

--HUMAN?
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE CONCLUSION OF VENOM:
LETHAL PROTECTOR by
DAVID MICHELINIE
WRITER
RON LIM
PENCILER
SAM DELAROSA
INKER
RICK PARKER
LETTERER
MARIE JAVINS
COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO ----EDITOR IN CHIEF
'FRISCO
KILL!

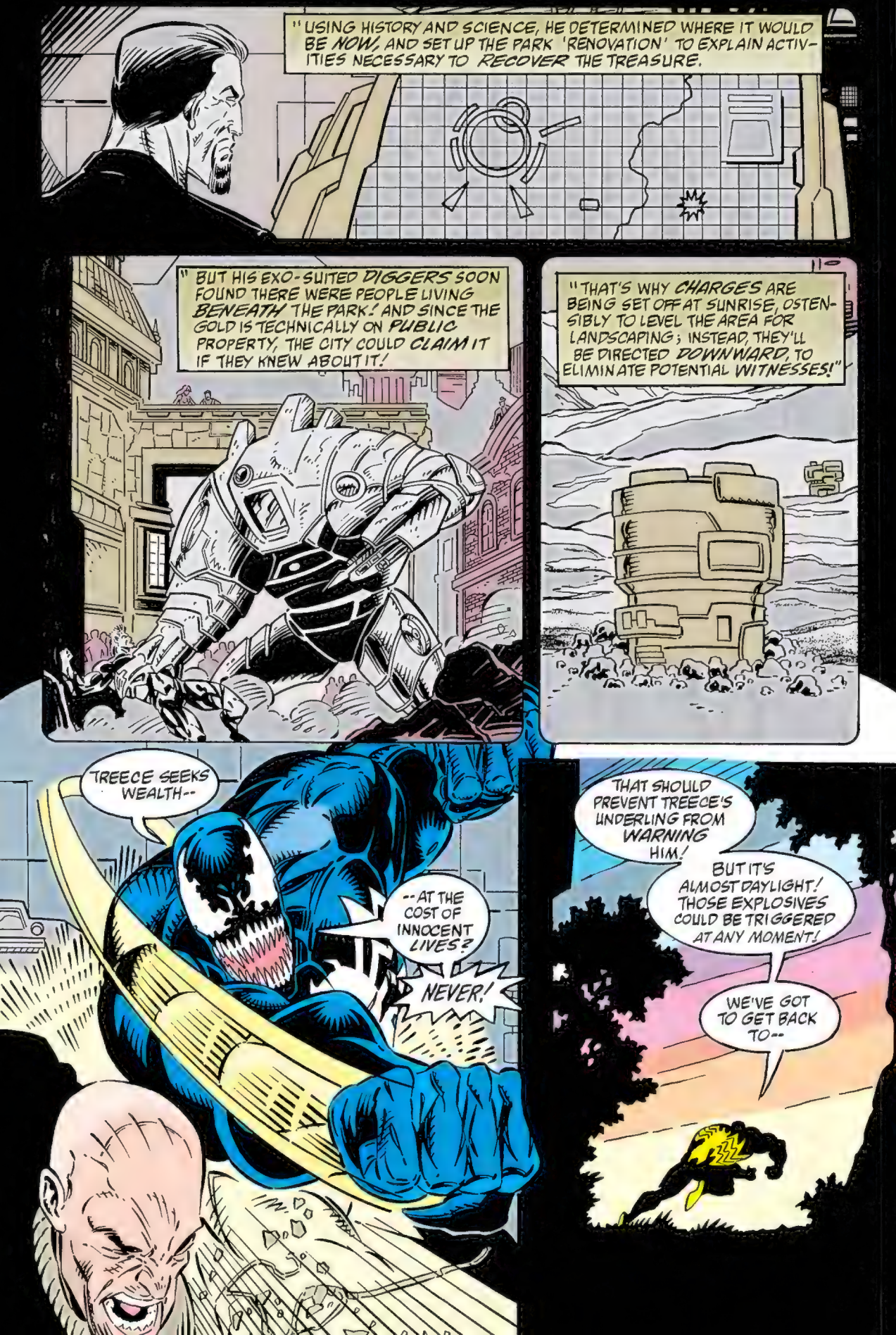
YOU! Y-YOU'RE THAT... THING!
THE ONE THAT BROKE INTO THE TREECE BUILDING DOWN IN THE CITY!
AWWWW, HOW SWEET! YOU REMEMBER US!
BUT WE REQUIRE INFORMATION, AND RETURNING TO TREECE'S BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS IS TOO RISKY! SO WE'VE COME HERE TO FIND OUT WHY HE'S OFFERED TO "RENOVATE" A PARK IN SAN FRANCISCO -- -- A PLAN THAT COULD DESTROY A SOCIETY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE LIVING BENEATH THAT PARK!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US...
...AREN'T YOU?
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME!

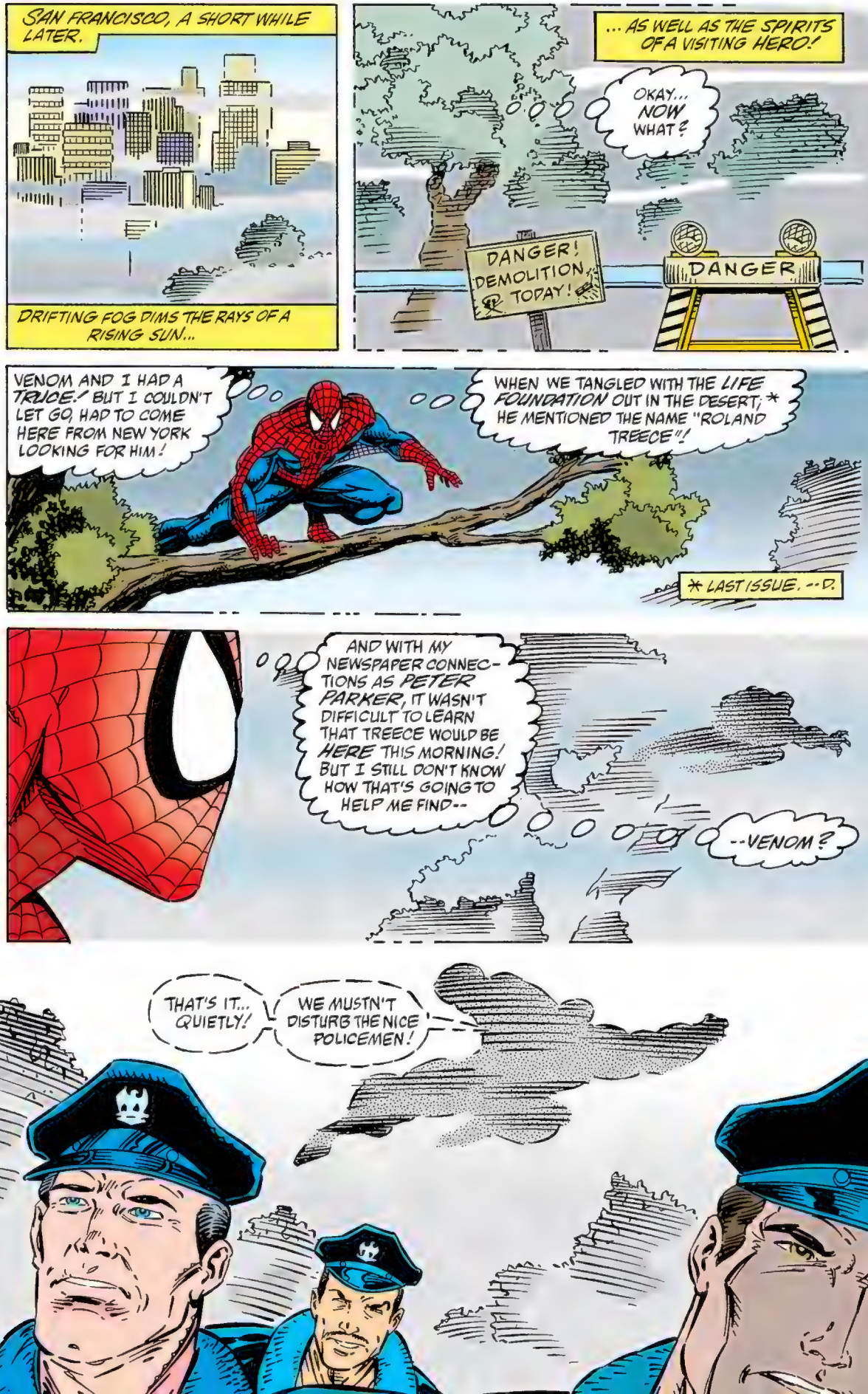

BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM
MOVE IT, CRANE! YOU KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT BULLETS--
"-- WON'T STOP THAT MONSTER!"
POK
POK
POK
POK
POK
POK
POK
POK
MADE IT! AS MR. TREECE'S SECURITY ADVISOR, I HELPED DESIGN THIS "SAFE ROOM"!
THAT SOLID STEEL DOOR WAS BUILT AS A BARRIER AGAINST KIDNAPPERS!
BUT IT SHOULD BE JUST AS EFFECTIVE AGAINST--


PRENNCH
PEEK-A-BOO!
WE SEE YOU!
TAK
NICE TRY, MONSTER! BUT THAT LASER GRID WILL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS IF YOU TRY TO GET ME!
THEN IT'S A GOOD THING WE DON'T HAVE TO GET YOU--
--TO HURT YOU!
=GHK=

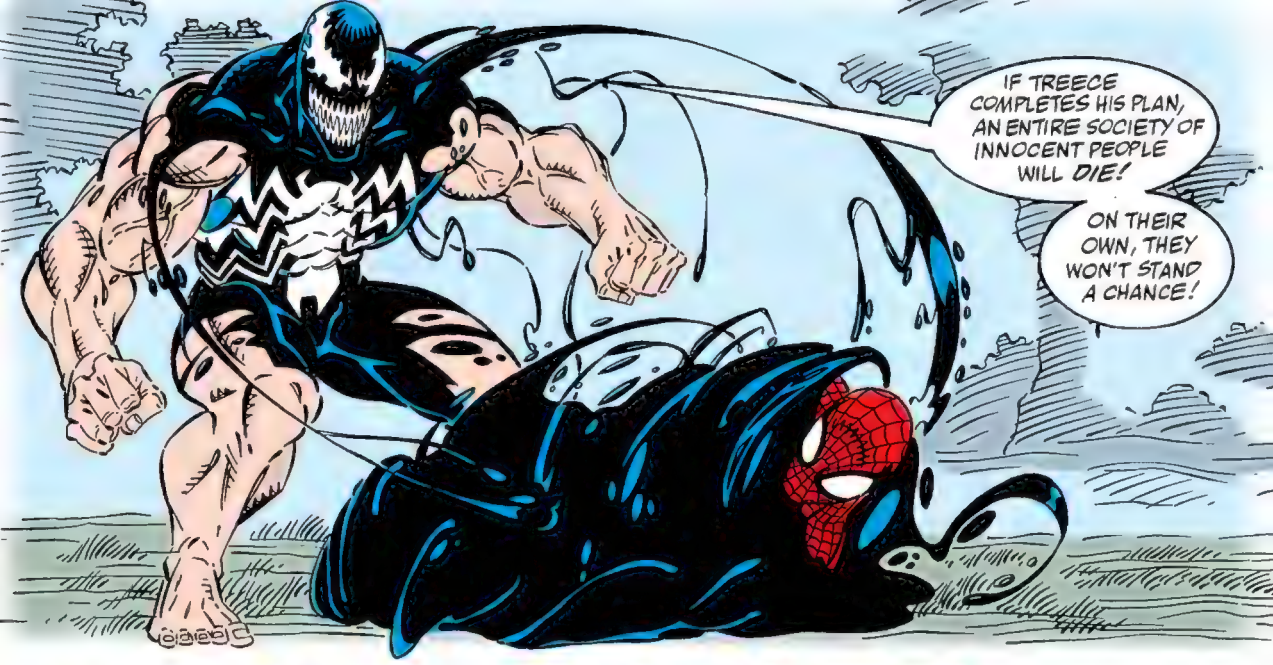
WE ALWAYS WONDERED HOW LONG A MAN COULD LIVE WITHOUT BREATHING!
ONE-MISSISSIPPI, TWO-MISSISSIPPI...
TAK
BETTER!
NOW, ABOUT THAT INFORMATION...?
AND DO STICK TO THE TRUTH--NOTHING CUTE, NOTHING HEROIC.
OR YOU MIGHT NOT SEE TOMORROW...
...LITERALLY!

TREECE'S MONEY BUYS MY LOYALTY... NOT MY LIFE.
WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW BEGAN A LONG TIME AGO...
"...IN 1906! A FOREIGN POWER, HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES, SENT A SECRET SHIPMENT OF GOLD BULLION TO FINANCE A GROUP OF ANARCHISTS!
"BUT THEY DIDN'T COUNT ON THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE!
"THEY THOUGHT THAT IF OUR GOVERNMENT WAS OVERTHROWN, THE U.S. WOULD BE RIPE FOR CONQUEST!
"THE ONLY MEN WHO KNEW OF THE TREASONOUS PLAN DIED IN THAT HOLOCAUST, THEIR BLOOD-MONEY BURIED BENEATH RUBBLE!
"IN THE AFTERMATH, A PARK WAS BUILT OVER THE DEBRIS, THE GOLD FORGOTTEN FOR GENERATIONS.
"BUT SOME MONTHS AGO, WHILE ACQUIRING ANTIQUES FOR HIS PRIVATE COLLECTION, ROLAND TREECE DISCOVERED A DOCUMENT SHOWING WHERE THE GOLD WAS TO HAVE BEEN STORED IN OLD SAN FRANCISCO!


"USING HISTORY AND SCIENCE, HE DETERMINED WHERE IT WOULD BE NOW, AND SET UP THE PARK 'RENOVATION' TO EXPLAIN ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO RECOVER THE TREASURE.
"BUT HIS EXO-SUITED DIGGERS SOON FOUND THERE WERE PEOPLE LIVING BENEATH THE PARK! AND SINCE THE GOLD IS TECHNICALLY ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, THE CITY COULD CLAIM IT IF THEY KNEW ABOUT IT!
"THAT'S WHY CHARGES ARE BEING SET OFF AT SUNRISE, OSTENSIBLY TO LEVEL THE AREA FOR LANDSCAPING; INSTEAD, THEY'LL BE DIRECTED DOWNWARD, TO ELIMINATE POTENTIAL WITNESSES!"
TREECE SEEKS WEALTH--
--AT THE COST OF INNOCENT LIVES?
NEVER!
THAT SHOULD PREVENT TREECE'S UNDERLING FROM WARNING HIM!
BUT IT'S ALMOST DAYLIGHT! THOSE EXPLOSIVES COULD BE TRIGGERED AT ANY MOMENT!
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO--

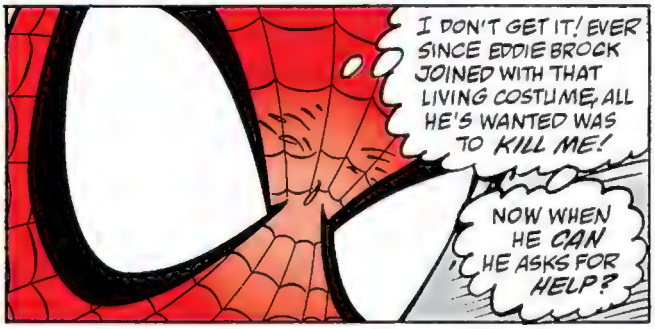

SAN FRANCISCO, A SHORT WHILE LATER.
DRIFTING FOG DIMS THE RAYS OF A RISING SUN...
... AS WELL AS THE SPIRITS OF A VISITING HERO!
OKAY... NOW WHAT?
DANGER! DEMOLITION TODAY!
DANGER
VENOM AND I HAD A TRUCE! BUT I COULDN'T LET GO, HAD TO COME HERE FROM NEW YORK LOOKING FOR HIM!
WHEN WE TANGLED WITH THE LIFE FOUNDATION OUT IN THE DESERT,* HE MENTIONED THE NAME "ROLAND TREECE"!
* LAST ISSUE. --D.
AND WITH MY NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS AS PETER PARKER, IT WASN'T DIFFICULT TO LEARN THAT TREECE WOULD BE HERE THIS MORNING! BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THAT'S GOING TO HELP ME FIND--
--VENOM?
THAT'S IT... QUIETLY!
WE MUSTN'T DISTURB THE NICE POLICEMEN!

WE'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION...
...IF NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE HE--
=RRRK=
DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANT TO KILL THAT TREEECE GUY--
--BUT I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T!
I KNEW I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU GO!
YOU'RE INSANE! BLOODTHIRSTY! THERE'S NO WAY YOU SHOULD BE FREE TO--
WHLMF?!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

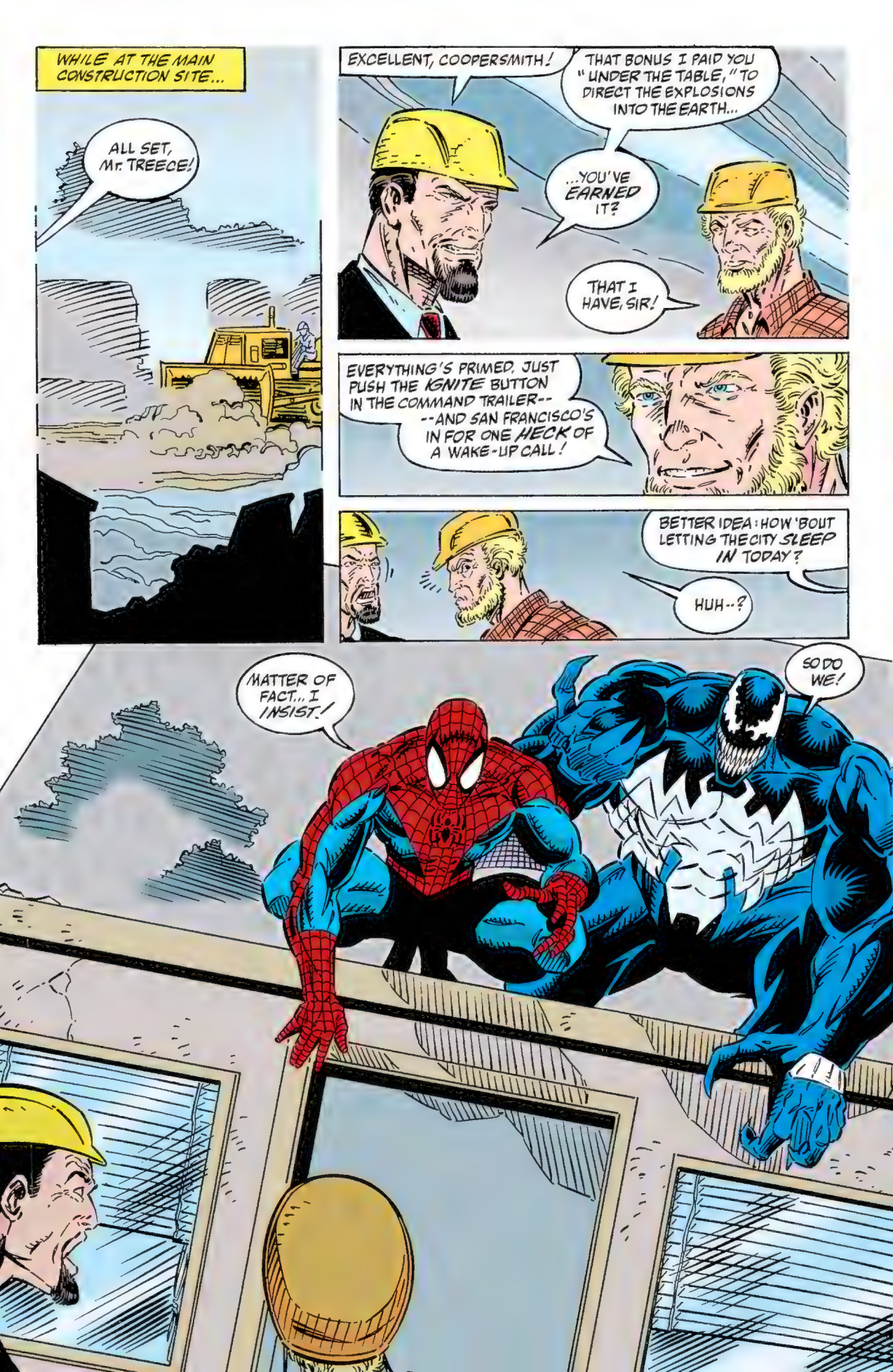

IF TREECE COMPLETES HIS PLAN, AN ENTIRE SOCIETY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE!
ON THEIR OWN, THEY WON'T STAND A CHANCE!

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US, SPIDER-MAN!
H-HELP... YOU?!

PLEASE.

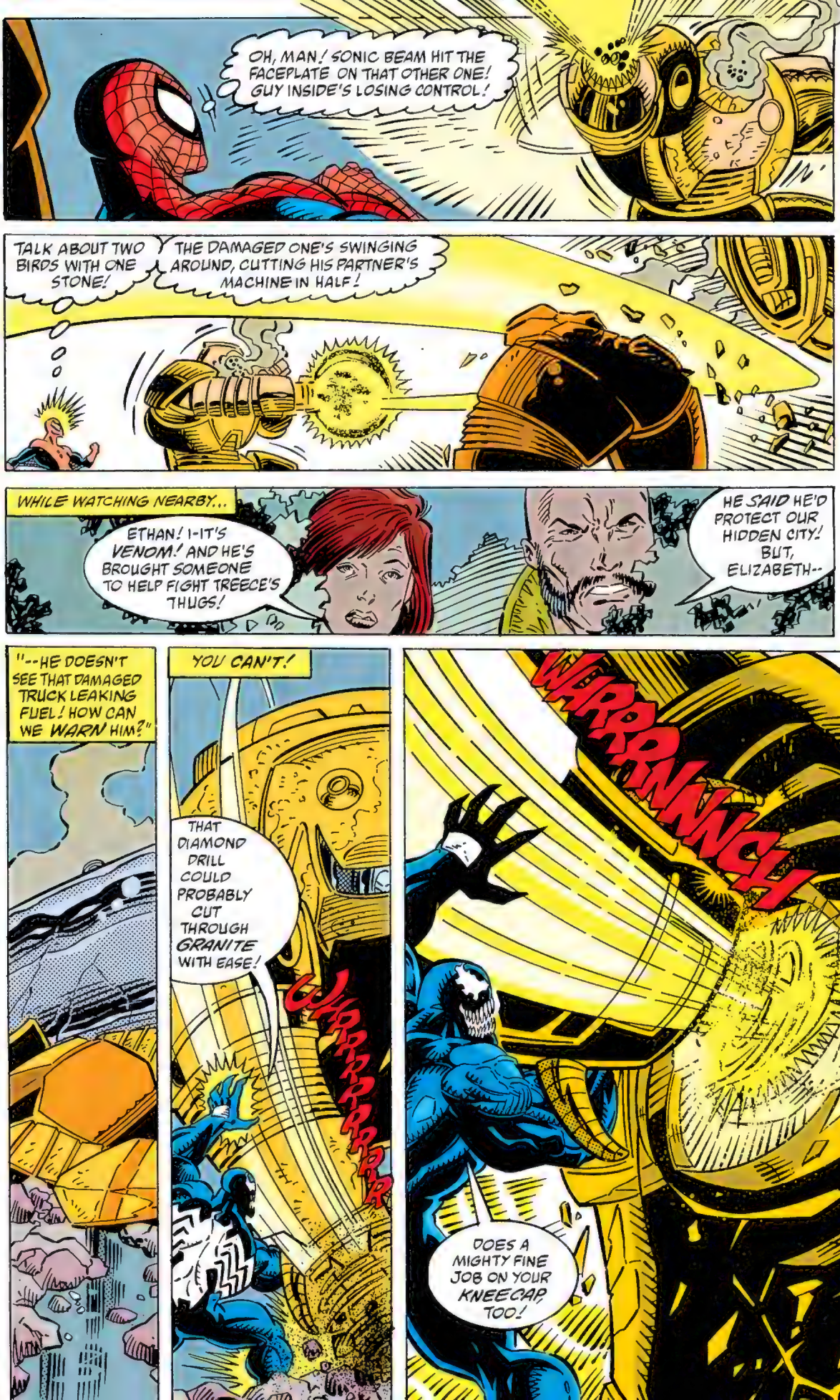

I DON'T GET IT! EVER SINCE EDDIE BROCK JOINED WITH THAT LIVING COSTUME, ALL HE'S WANTED WAS TO KILL ME!
NOW WHEN HE CAN HE ASKS FOR HELP?

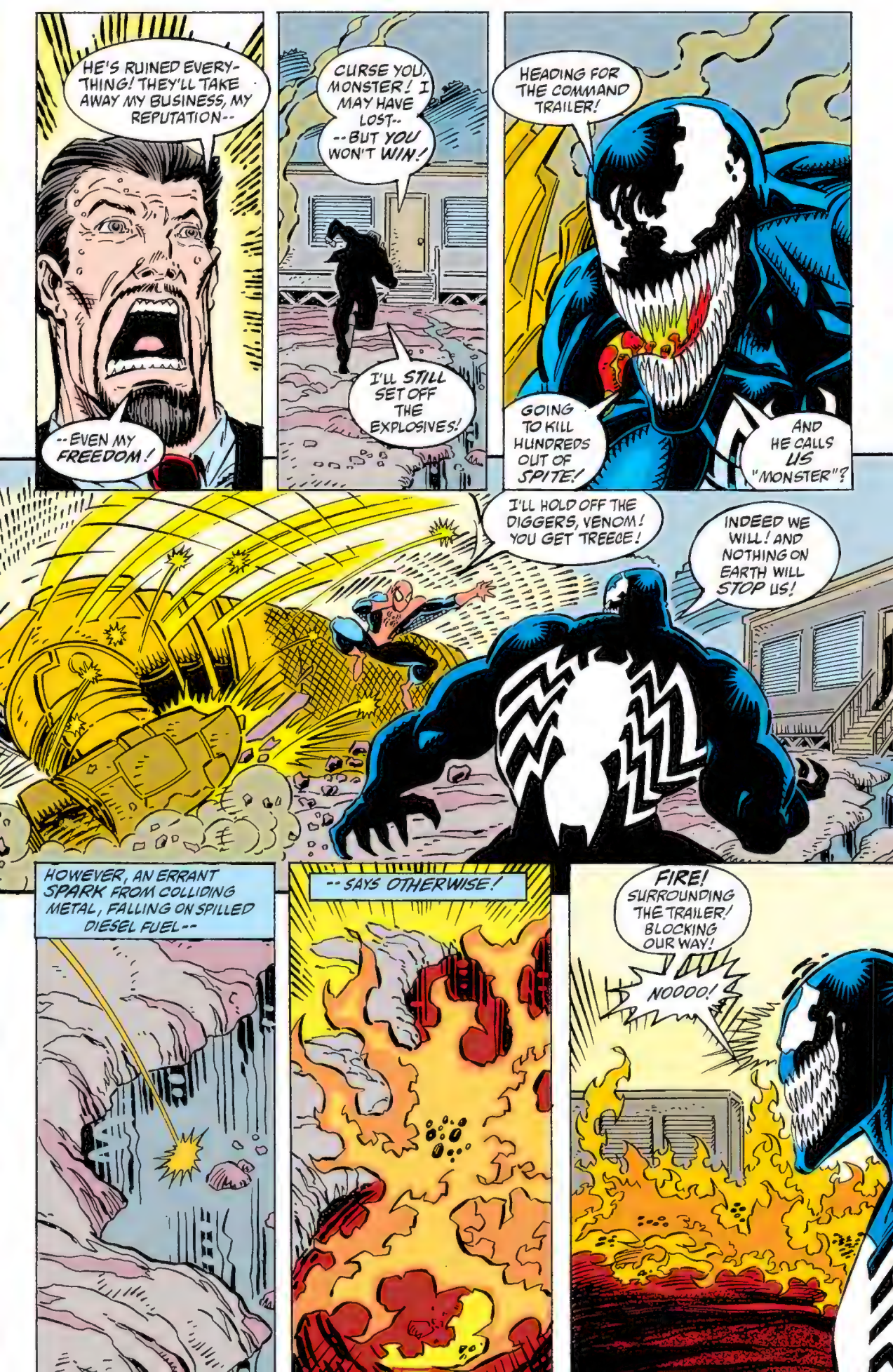
THE ONLY THING THAT'S EVER MATTERED TO HIM AS MUCH AS MY DEATH HAS BEEN THE PROTECTION OF INNOCENTS! SO IF HE'S WILLING TO LET ME LIVE--
--I HAVE TO BELIEVE HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH!
ALL RIGHT, VENOM... TALK!


WHILE AT THE MAIN CONSTRUCTION SITE...
ALL SET, Mr. TREECE!
EXCELLENT, COOPERSMITH!
THAT BONUS I PAID YOU "UNDER THE TABLE," TO DIRECT THE EXPLOSIONS INTO THE EARTH...
...YOU'VE EARNED IT?
THAT I HAVE, SIR!
EVERYTHING'S PRIMED. JUST PUSH THE IGNITE BUTTON IN THE COMMAND TRAILER--
--AND SAN FRANCISCO'S IN FOR ONE HECK OF A WAKE-UP CALL!
BETTER IDEA: HOW 'BOUT LETTING THE CITY SLEEP IN TODAY?
HUH--?
MATTER OF FACT... I INSIST!
SO DO WE!

WAIT! THE POLICE EXPECT NOISE, BUT GUNSHOTS WOULD BRING THEM RUNNING! THERE'S ANOTHER WAY!
JENKINS! GET YOUR CREW HERE ON THE DOUBLE!
OOO, DECISIONS, DECISIONS! WHAT SHOULD WE BREAK FIRST?
YOUR NOSE, YOUR NECK... OR WHAT PASSES FOR YOUR SPINE?
HOW ABOUT--
--EVERYTHING!
WHA--?
Ah, JENKINS, WE PRESUME...?
Y'ER A REG'LAR SHERLOCK HOLMES, PAL!

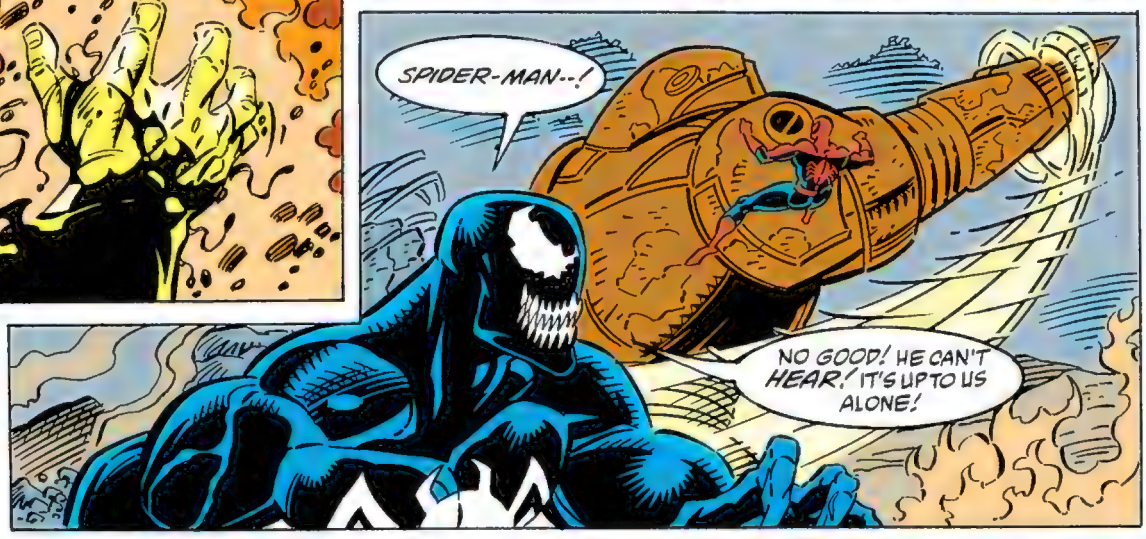
SO TRY DEDUCIN' YER WAY OUTTA THIS!
WE'VE FOUGHT THESE MECHANISMS BEFORE, SPIDER-MAN!
THEY'RE CALLED "DIGGERS"!
AND THEIR TOOLS MAKE FORMIDABLE WEAPONS!
THAT SONIC SHOVEL FOR INSTANCE-- BESIDES FIRE, SOUND IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HURT US!
THEN GET OUT OF ITS RANGE!
THWIP
I'LL TRY TO THROW ITS AIM OFF!
?!
AAAAGGH!
ZZAMCH
WHAT TH--?!

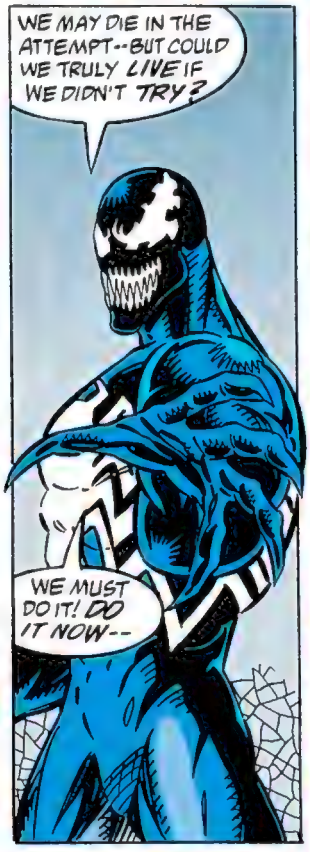

OH, MAN! SONIC BEAM HIT THE FACEPLATE ON THAT OTHER ONE! GUY INSIDE'S LOSING CONTROL!
TALK ABOUT TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
THE DAMAGED ONE'S SWINGING AROUND, CUTTING HIS PARTNER'S MACHINE IN HALF!
WHILE WATCHING NEARBY...
ETHAN! I-IT'S VENOM! AND HE'S BROUGHT SOMEONE TO HELP FIGHT TREECE'S THUGS!
HE SAID HE'D PROTECT OUR HIDDEN CITY! BUT, ELIZABETH--
"--HE DOESN'T SEE THAT DAMAGED TRUCK LEAKING FUEL! HOW CAN WE WARN HIM?"
YOU CAN'T!
THAT DIAMOND DRILL COULD PROBABLY CUT THROUGH GRANITE WITH EASE!
WARRRRRRRR
WARRRNNNCH
DOES A MIGHTY FINE JOB ON YOUR KNEECAP, TOO!

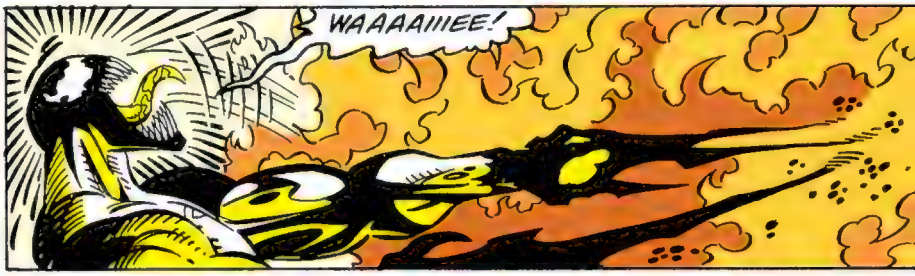

HE'S RUINED EVERY-THING! THEY'LL TAKE AWAY MY BUSINESS, MY REPUTATION--
--EVEN MY FREEDOM!
CURSE YOU, MONSTER! I MAY HAVE LOST-- --BUT YOU WON'T WIN!
I'LL STILL SET OFF THE EXPLOSIVES!
HEADING FOR THE COMMAND TRAILER!
GOING TO KILL HUNDREDS OUT OF SPITE!
AND HE CALLS US "MONSTER"?
I'LL HOLD OFF THE DIGGERS, VENOM! YOU GET TREECE!
INDEED WE WILL! AND NOTHING ON EARTH WILL STOP US!
HOWEVER, AN ERRANT SPARK FROM COLLIDING METAL, FALLING ON SPILLED DIESEL FUEL--
--SAYS OTHERWISE!
FIRE! SURROUNDING THE TRAILER! BLOCKING OUR WAY!
NOOOO!

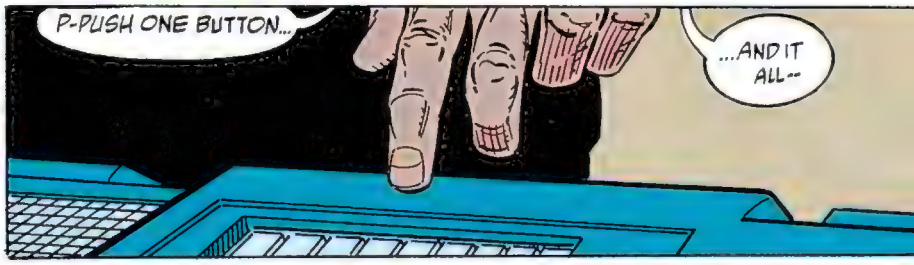
MY "OTHER" PULLING BACK! I FEEL ITS FEAR-- ITS PAIN!

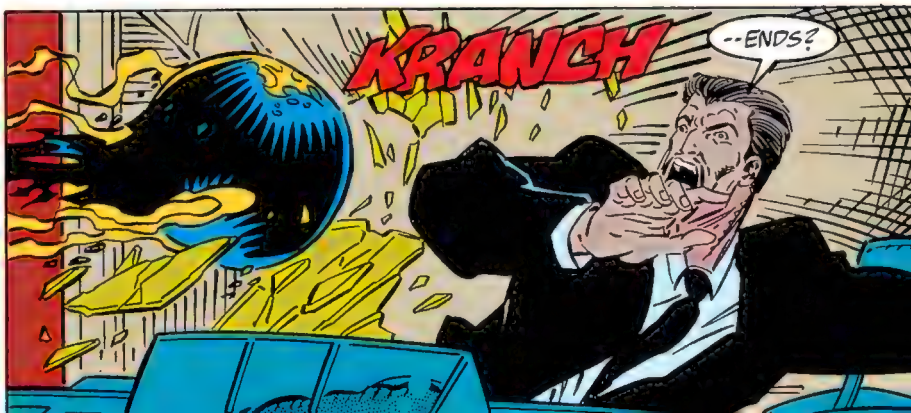
PUSH ONE BUTTON... AND IT ALL ENDS!

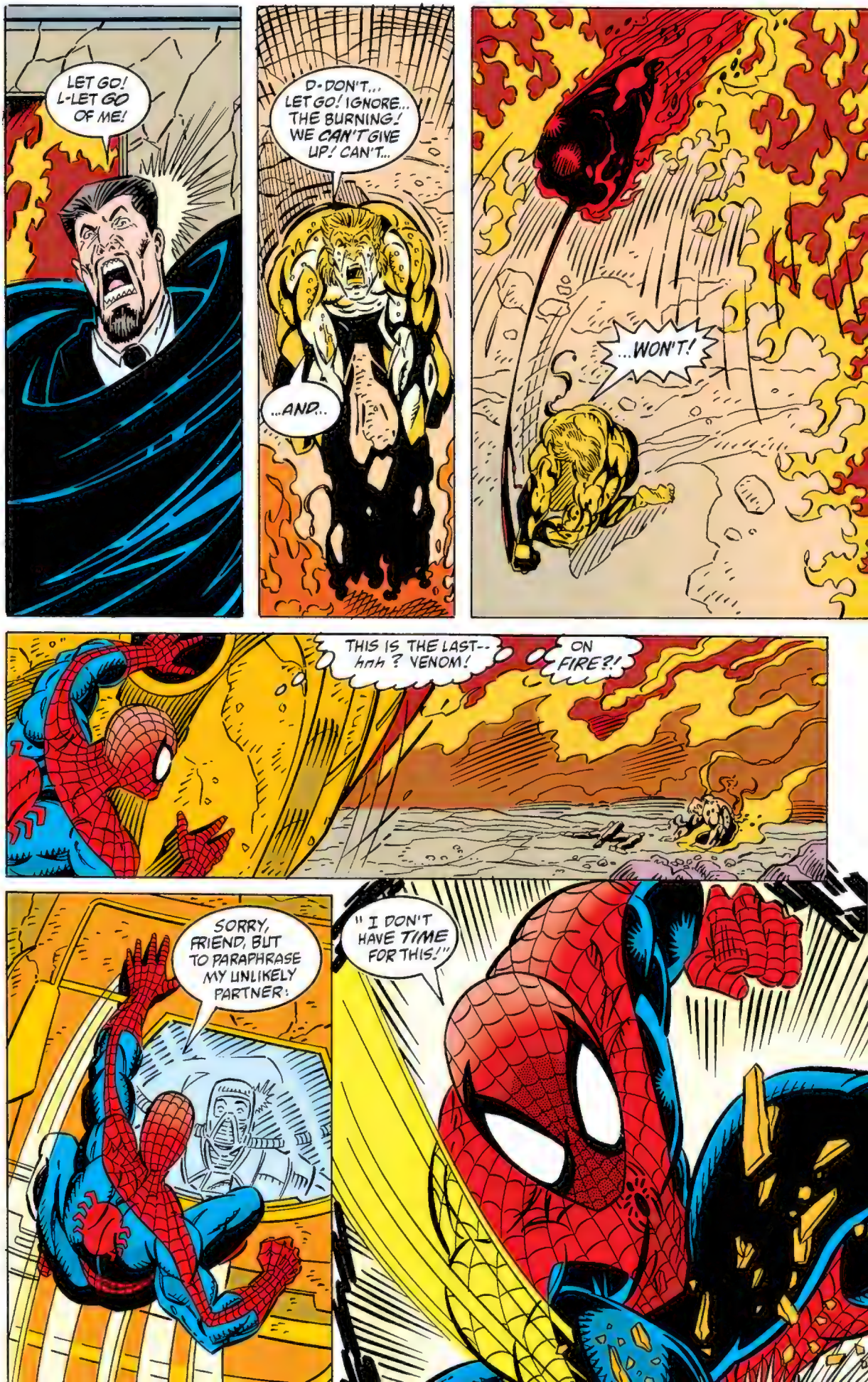

SPIDER-MAN--!
NO GOOD! HE CAN'T HEAR! IT'S UP TO US ALONE!

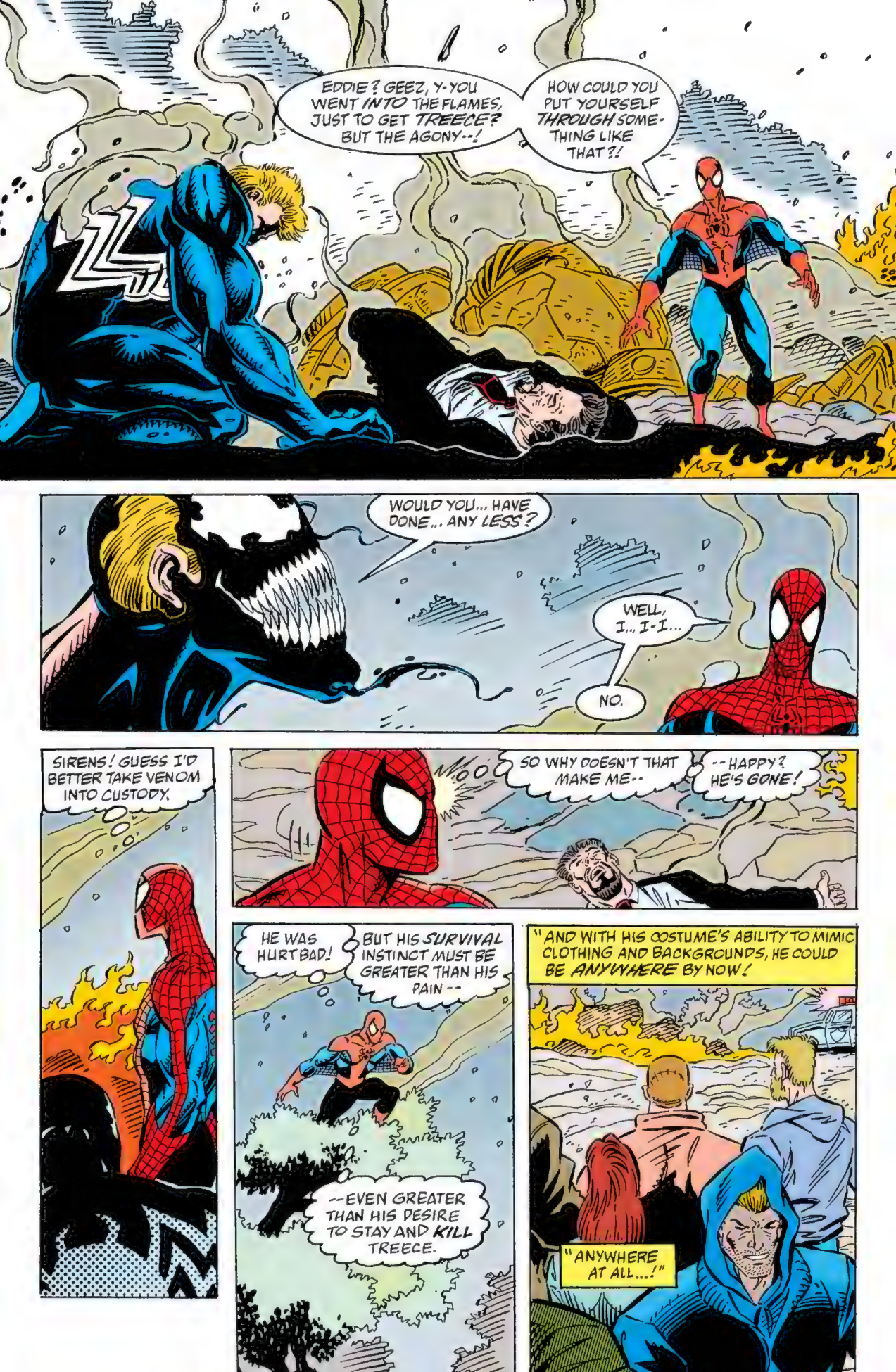

WE MAY DIE IN THE ATTEMPT--BUT COULD WE TRULY LIVE IF WE DIDN'T TRY?
WE MUST DO IT! DO IT NOW--


WAAAAIIIEE!

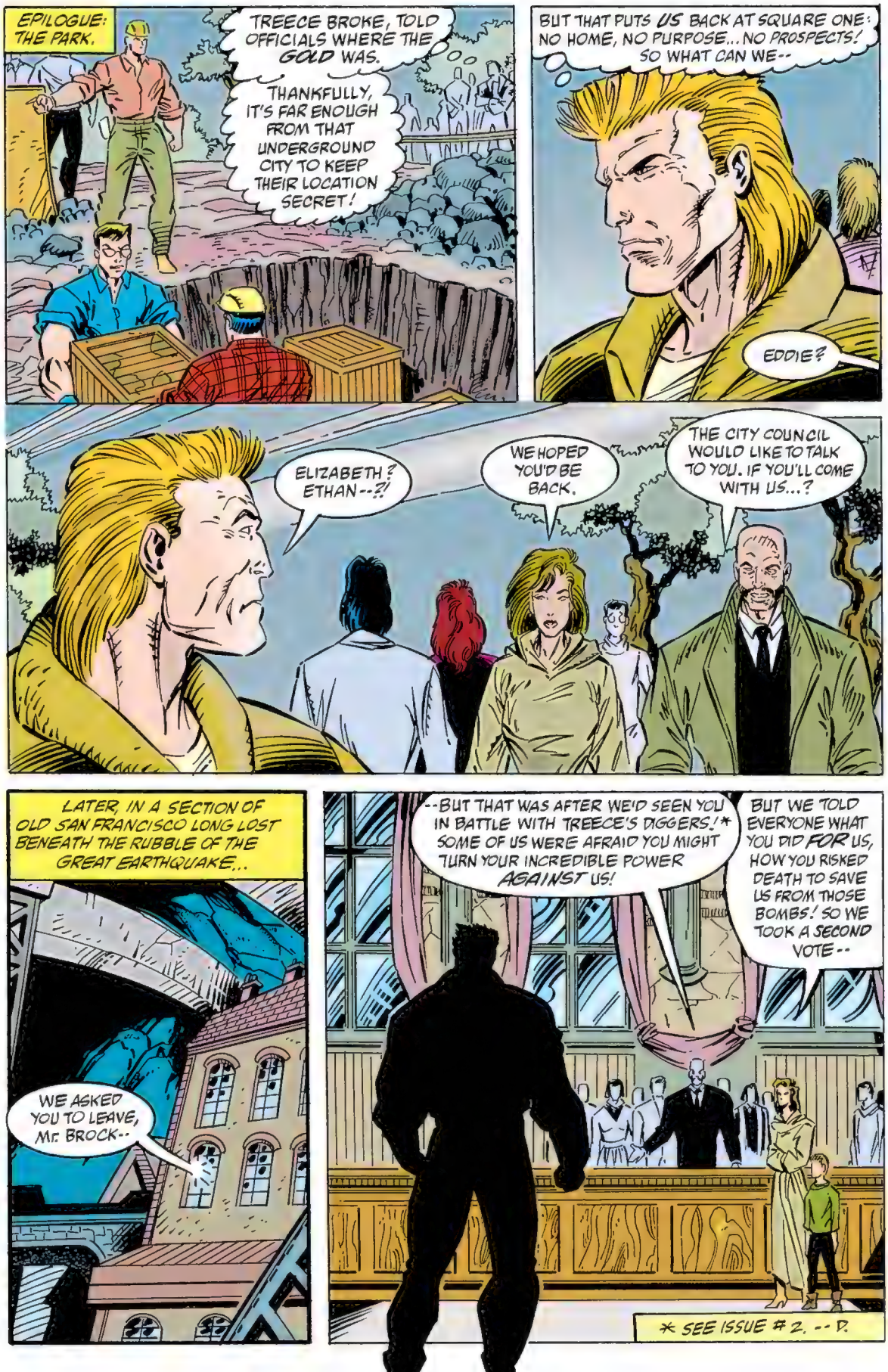

P-PUSH ONE BUTTON...
...AND IT ALL--


KRANCH
--ENDS?


LET GO! L-LET GO OF ME!
D-DON'T... LET GO! IGNORE... THE BURNING! WE CAN'T GIVE UP! CAN'T...
...AND..
...WON'T!
THIS IS THE LAST-- hmh? VENOM!
ON FIRE?!
SORRY, FRIEND, BUT TO PARAPHRASE MY UNLIKELY PARTNER:
" I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!"

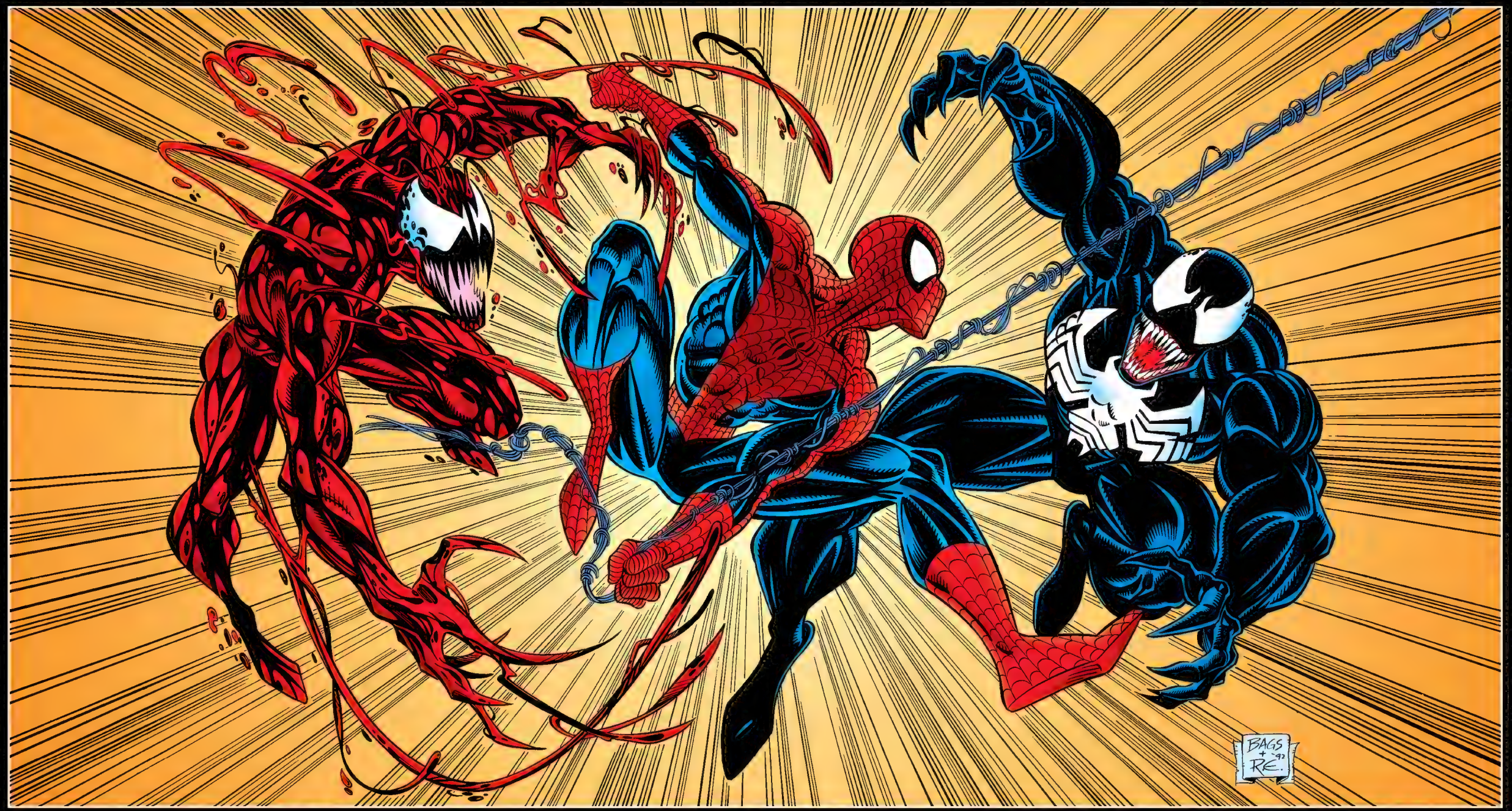

EDDIE? GEEZ, Y-YOU WENT INTO THE FLAMES, JUST TO GET TREECE? BUT THE AGONY--!
HOW COULD YOU PUT YOURSELF THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
WOULD YOU... HAVE DONE... ANY LESS?
WELL, I.., I-I...
NO.
SIRENS! GUESS I'D BETTER TAKE VENOM INTO CUSTODY.
SO WHY DOESN'T THAT MAKE ME--
--HAPPY? HE'S GONE!
HE WAS HURT BAD!
BUT HIS SURVIVAL INSTINCT MUST BE GREATER THAN HIS PAIN --
--EVEN GREATER THAN HIS DESIRE TO STAY AND KILL TREECE.
"AND WITH HIS COSTUME'S ABILITY TO MIMIC CLOTHING AND BACKGROUNDS, HE COULD BE ANYWHERE BY NOW!
"ANYWHERE AT ALL...!"

TWO DAYS LATER, AT SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...
THAT'S RIGHT, MARY JANE--
--LAGUARDIA, 6:15. I'LL TAKE A CAB HOME. HMM? NO, HE'S STILL OUT HERE. THINGS... HAPPENED.
NO, NO, I'M FINE!
THERE WERE TIMES HE COULD HAVE MADE GOOD ON HIS PAST THREATS TO ME, BUT DIDN'T. HE SEEMED MORE CONCERNED WITH SAVING INNOCENTS--
--JUST LIKE HE SAID WHEN WE MADE OUR "DEAL." *SO I GUESS I HAVE TO BELIEVE HIM. EVEN I REALIZE I CAN'T MOVE TO CALIFORNIA AND SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE TRYING TO HUNT HIM DOWN.
I COULD'VE TOLD YOU THAT. BUT I GUESS YOU HAD TO FIND IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.
YEAH. WITH HIS CAPACITY FOR BLENDING IN, SEARCHING FOR HIM'D BE PRETTY FUTILE. AND BESIDES--
* AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375.--D.
--I'D MISS YOU TOO MUCH.
SEE YOU TONIGHT, SWEETHEART.
I LOVE YOU.


EPILOGUE: THE PARK.
TREECE BROKE, TOLD OFFICIALS WHERE THE GOLD WAS.
THANKFULLY, IT'S FAR ENOUGH FROM THAT UNDERGROUND CITY TO KEEP THEIR LOCATION SECRET!
BUT THAT PUTS US BACK AT SQUARE ONE: NO HOME, NO PURPOSE... NO PROSPECTS! SO WHAT CAN WE--
EDDIE?
ELIZABETH? ETHAN--?!
WE HOPED YOU'D BE BACK.
THE CITY COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU. IF YOU'LL COME WITH US...?
LATER, IN A SECTION OF OLD SAN FRANCISCO LONG LOST BENEATH THE RUBBLE OF THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE...
WE ASKED YOU TO LEAVE, Mr. BROCK--
--BUT THAT WAS AFTER WE'D SEEN YOU IN BATTLE WITH TREECE'S DIGGERS!* SOME OF US WERE AFRAID YOU MIGHT TURN YOUR INCREDIBLE POWER AGAINST US!
BUT WE TOLD EVERYONE WHAT YOU DID FOR US, HOW YOU RISKED DEATH TO SAVE US FROM THOSE BOMBS! SO WE TOOK A SECOND VOTE--
* SEE ISSUE # 2. -- D.

-- AND AGREED WE WANT YOU TO STAY, TO BE OUR NEIGHBOR... OUR FRIEND!
YOU'LL BE SORRY--!
NO, REVEREND RAKESTRAW, THEY WON'T!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE WE'VE BELONGED ANYWHERE--
-- AND WE WON'T ABUSE THAT TRUST!
WE WILL BE YOUR FRIEND, AND MORE! FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, ALL INNOCENTS CAN CONSIDER THEMSELVES UNDER OUR PROTECTION! AND WHOEVER WOULD DARE DO THEM HARM WILL ANSWER TO...
...VENOM!
BUT OF COURSE, EVEN WHEN VENOM TRIES TO DO THE RIGHT THING... PEOPLE DIE! SEE WHAT WE MEAN NEXT MONTH IN THE DEBUT ISSUE OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, AN ALL-NEW LIMITED SERIES BY CARL POTTS, TOM LYLE, AND JOE RUBINSTEIN.
RON 93 JIM + DELAROSA!

MARVEL CHILLERS: THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME (1996)
RETOLD VENOM'S ORIGIN AS AN ILLUSTRATED PROSE STORY.



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #365 BOUND-IN POSTER BY MARK BAGLEY & RANDY EMBERLIN

■ VENOM *POSTER INSIDE* ■ ACTION FIGURE *PRICE GUIDE* ■ NEW TOP 10 *THE NATION'S HOTTEST*

"AN ARACHNID IN A HARD PLACE"

WIZARD #18 FOLDOUT COVER BY BART "WITTMAN" SEARS & MARK McNABB

SPIDER-MAN: CARNAGE TPB (1993) COVER BY MARK BAGLEY & RANDY EMBERLIN

Call him ~~Chaos!~~ ~~Ravage!~~ CARNAGE!

I wanted to kill the guy. No, no, not my *editor* — he signs the checks! Actually, I wanted to kill VENOM. And I *would* have, too, if not for...ah, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

In the beginning, there was an alien, a symbiote that Spider-Man had brought back from a distant planet. Emulating a sentient, black-and-white costume, the creature eventually tried to bond permanently with Peter Parker, everyone's favorite web-slinging wonder. But Spidey fought back, and in the course of the battle it wound up sacrificing itself at the last moment to save Spider-Man. Then, a year or two later when I began writing *The Amazing Spider-Man*, a new villain was called for, and I resurrected an idea I'd begun developing in another book. As a result, I brought back the alien, joined it with a demented man (Eddie Brock) whose sole focus was hatred of Spider-Man, and — along with superstar artist, *Todd McFarlane* — introduced VENOM to the world!

Things went pretty well. Writing the character was a lot of fun. But, since I'd planned to stay on *Amazing* for at least 20-30 years, I started thinking about the future — and I got a dangerous idea: since Venom had had his first story in *Amazing #300*, why not have his *last* story in #400! Yeah! I could kill Eddie Brock off, then have the costume wander around the Marvel Universe for a year or two, joining with various other characters, before settling on another host to become the "new" Venom! Imagine the nifty stories if the symbiote joined with Doctor Octopus, the Lizard, or (shudder) J. Jonah Jameson! It sounded like a great idea, but then something unexpected happened — readers absolutely *loved* Venom! As popularity (and sales) rose, it became increasingly obvious that Marvel would never let me actually waste comicdom's favorite slavering symbiote. O what to do!

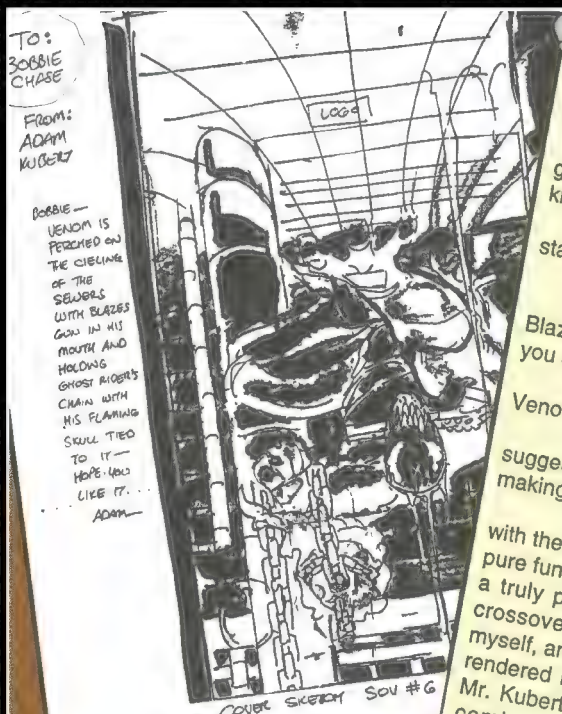
Then came the answer: if we couldn't have the *existing* symbiote join with someone else, why not create *another* one? Since the alien was of an unknown species, it seemed reasonable that it might reproduce asexually, spawning a seed that would become a creature similar to itself. Ah, but who would it join with? Though psychotic, Eddie Brock had a deep, if twisted, sense of justice which drove him to protect innocents. (At least, whenever he wasn't busy trying to turn Spider-Man into gut jam!) I thought it might be an interesting contrast to that unique dichotomy to give Venomlike power to a total sociopath, someone without a hint of redeeming value, a lunatic who'd eat babies for breakfast — and ask for seconds. Enter CLETUS KASADY. An unrepentant mass murderer, Clete was Eddie's cellmate in prison, and thus became the eager recipient of Venom's spawn when the symbiote "gave birth" while breaking Eddie out.

Okay, we had our new character — what would we name him? No problem, I thought; we'll call him CHAOS! After all, that's what Clete wants to bring to the world, right? Perfect! Until a rival company came out with a character by the same name a couple of weeks later. (sigh) Then artist Mark Bagley proposed...RAVAGE! Again, perfect! Until we found out that Marvel already had a book in the works called *Ravage 2099*. (Insert second sigh) Finally, then assistant editor Eric Fein suggested casually, not knowing that he was about to make history, "How 'bout 'CARNAGE'?" Once more, the name was perfect. And even better, this time no one else was using it!

Which left us with one last problem: what would the character look like? How could we retain the visual connection to Venom while still making the new guy an individual unto himself? I posed the possibility that he could look like Venom, but that his costume would be multi-colored, constantly changing to reflect the chaotic nature of the man inside. Not being an artist, I didn't realize that that would put anyone who tried to draw it in a padded cell real fast! That's when Mark Bagley came up with the design we ultimately used, successfully retaining the constant change motif, but with a much more workable (and effective) red-and-black color scheme. Seeing how Mark drew the character gave me ideas on how to use it, and between us we put together one nasty dude.

And it seems the world *likes* nasty dudes. The first two stories featuring Carnage sold out, with no advertising, no publicity whatsoever. We assume that's because the readers found him entertaining — *not* admirable. (He is, after all, one very sick puppy!) But whatever the reason, Cletus Kasady's popularity has steamrolled, rivaling even that of his "dad," Venom. In fact, he recently headlined the biggest mega-crossover in Spider-Man history, "Maximum Carnage." What will become of Clete and his living wardrobe in the future? No one knows. But how he got to where he is, you'll find in the stories collected in this volume. So sit back and (the doors *are* locked...aren't they?) enjoy.

SPIDER-MAN: THE TRIAL OF VENOM BOUND-IN POSTER BY JIM CRAIG, NELSON & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR


TO:
BOBBIE CHASE
FROM:
ADAM KUBERT
BOBBIE—
VENOM IS PERCHED ON THE CIELING OF THE SEWERS WITH BLAZES GUN IN HIS MOUTH AND HOLDING GHOST RIDER'S CHAIN WITH HIS FLAMING SKULL TIED TO IT—
HOPE YOU LIKE IT...
ADAM—
COVER SKETCH SOV #6

AFTERWORD

First thing I learned as a freelance writer is when your editor speaks... you listen.

"Hey, Howard," says Bobbie Chase, "how about you guest-star Spider-Man in *Spirits of Vengeance*? I hear you know the editor."

"Hey, Howard," says Danny, "any chance of guest-starring Blaze in the *Web Of Spider-Man*?"

Nuff said? Not yet!

"Hey, Howard," says Alex Saviuk, " I really like John Blaze, but I've always wanted to draw Ghost Rider. What do you say?"

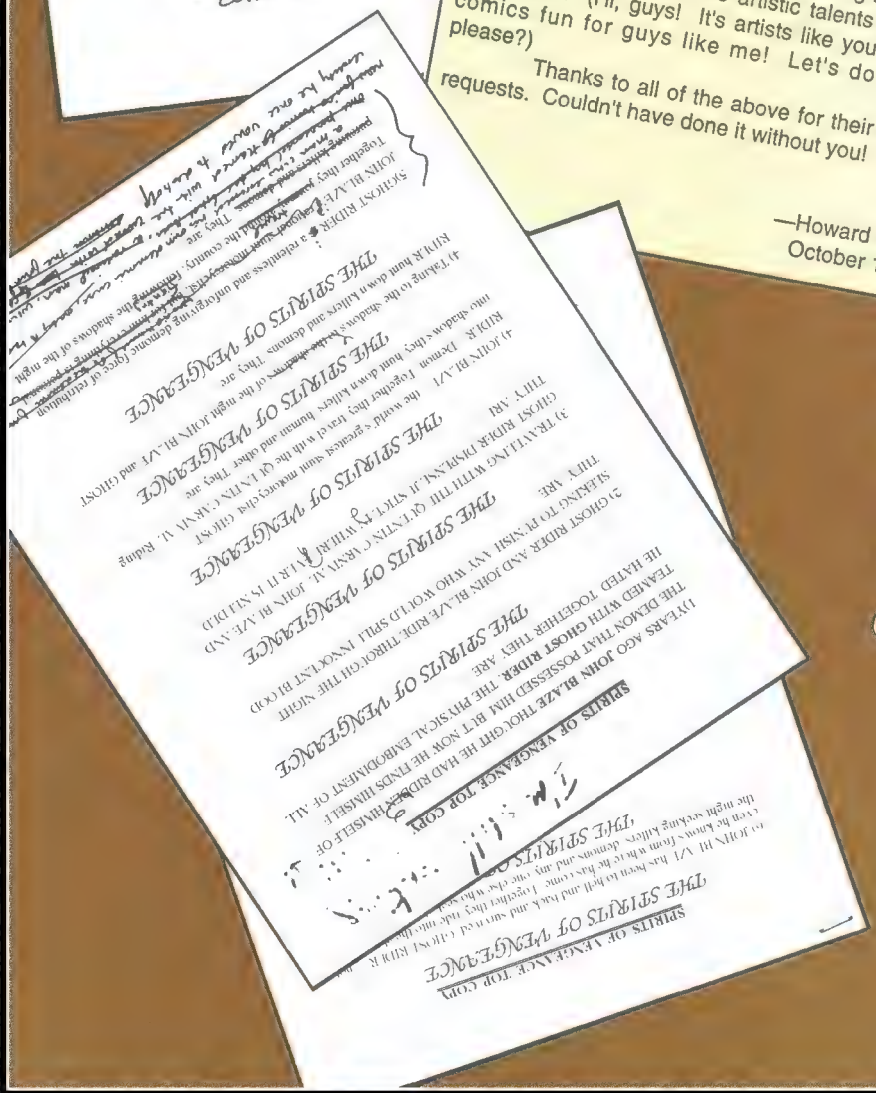
"Hey, Howard," says Adam Kubert, "What about Venom? I think I'd do a real cool Venom. Come on, huh?"

So, I've got two of my favorite editors making suggestions and two of the best artists I've ever worked with making requests... What's a writer to do?

SPIRITS OF VENOM (Bobbie and Danny came up with the title! I just had to make it fit the story!) Four issues of pure fun and mayhem were the result for this writer. This was a truly painless crossover (most writers aren't big fans of crossovers either!). I get to write a four-part story, all by myself, and KNOW that the story is going to be translated and rendered beautifully by the artistic talents of Mr. Saviuk and Mr. Kubert. (Hi, guys! It's artists like you that make writing comics fun for guys like me! Let's do it again soon... please?)

Thanks to all of the above for their suggestions and requests. Couldn't have done it without you!

—Howard Mackie
October 1993



***SPIRITS OF VENOM TPB* (1993) AFTERWORD BY HOWARD MACKIE, WITH *GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE* #6 COVER SKETCH BY ADAM KUBERT**

SPIRITS OF VENOM TPB PINUP BY SHAWN McMANUS, KARL KESEL & JOHN KALISZ

SPIRITS OF VENOM TPB PINUP BY JOHN K. SNYDER III & MARIE JAVINS

SPIRITS OF VENOM TPB PINUP BY STEVE LIGHTLE & MARIANNE LIGHTLE

SPIRITS OF VENOM TPB PINUP BY RAFAEL NAVARRO, FRED FREDERICKS & JOHN KALISZ

"I'VE GOT YOU UNDER MY SKIN"

A LOOK AT THE VENOM LIMITED SERIES'

Villains have persistently captured the imagination of the public, in many cases more so than their heroic counterparts. Darth Vader often eclipsed Luke Skywalker, and Dr. Doom's popularity has always rivaled that of the Fantastic Four. This villainous tradition continues with Spider-Man's arch-foe, Venom.

"Venom is obviously extremely popular and the fans have expressed a great interest in seeing him in his own book," Danny Fingeroth, the current editor on the Spider-Man family of titles explained about the upcoming VENOM limited series. "We felt that the popularity and support that the fans have given Venom dictated doing something special."

"The VENOM limited series will be six issues," Danny continued, "which will take up the first half of 1993. The creative team will be Mark Bagley, and Sam DeLaRosa."

"The series will explore the character of Eddie Brock in relation to his own psyche," Danny revealed. "Why did Brock, of all people in the world, choose willingly to bond with the alien symbiote, whereas Spider-Man and anyone else who was ever exposed to the creature would not? The consequences of such an action," he continued, "would entail the permanent bonding of the symbiote to your body."

Although there would be some flashbacks concerning Venom's origin, Danny stressed that the material was new. "We will learn more about Eddie Brock's past and hint about Venom's origin, the origin of the alien symbiote," Danny explained, "but more importantly, we will see how Venom's relationship with Spider-Man has changed."

"LET'S CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF"

The reconciliation of Venom and Spider-Man's relationship will actually begin in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #374. Although VENOM #1 comes out the following week, its first issue leads to events in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, so there will be a lot of questions in VENOM #1 that will be unanswered until two weeks later in AMAZING #375.

"Spider-Man plays a major role in the first series," Danny revealed. "There are some loose ends from AMAZING #375 that Spidey and Venom will have to wrap up. . .some loose web-strands as it were. Spider-Man will be in every single issue of the first arc, and he will play a prominent role in the storyline."

There is a reconciliation that turns out to be strictly one-sided. "Venom will reconcile with Spider-Man, but Spidey will not reciprocate. Spider-Man will be devoting a good deal of his time hunting Venom down."

"CALIFORNIA IS THE PLACE Y'OUGHTTA BE"

To alleviate Spider-Man's constant pestering, Venom relocates to San Francisco where he will take up residence in a part of the city that was buried and abandoned after the great earthquake of 1906. There, Venom will amass a group of allies. "They're not Morlocks and they're not mutants," Danny explained, "although I will not rule out the possibility of some of them having super powers. They are kind of a sub-culture of various strange individuals," Danny continued. "They would have to be to associate with Venom." There will also be a group of renegade Guardsmen and relatives of Venom's victims who have united for the express purpose of destroying Venom.

But why San Francisco?

"David (Michelinie), who wrote the bible for the character, and I felt that if Venom was anywhere in the New York area, Spider-Man would spend his entire life searching for him. If he's 3,000 miles away, Spider-Man, at a certain point, would have to say, 'He could be anywhere; San Francisco, The Midwest, Canada, even Europe!' And remember, Venom can disguise himself as anything or anybody.

"There had to be some way to get them physically apart, so Spider-Man would not constantly be worried about Venom coming after Aunt May or Mary Jane," Danny said.

CRAZY FOR YOU — FUTURE PUNISHMENT

So can the readers expect a nicer, gentler Venom? "Not at all!" Danny stated emphatically. "Venom is not getting a governmental pardon or anything. He is still a villain. Venom's whole M.O. (Modus Operandi), his whole *raison d'etre* is that he sees himself as a hero, much as, say, Dr. Doom does. All the best Marvel villains see themselves as heroes. That's why they are so interesting.

"The key with Venom," he continued, "is much like that with The Punisher, actually, although Venom is even less selective about whom he kills. Venom often gets carried away. He is crazy."

Up to now, Venom's only aim has been to kill Spider-Man, and he would kill anyone who got in his way to do so. Yet, he would not pounce on Peter Parker in front of his family; Aunt May or Mary Jane," Danny added. "He does have some sense of justice and decency and rules of the game, although what that entails, only Venom knows."

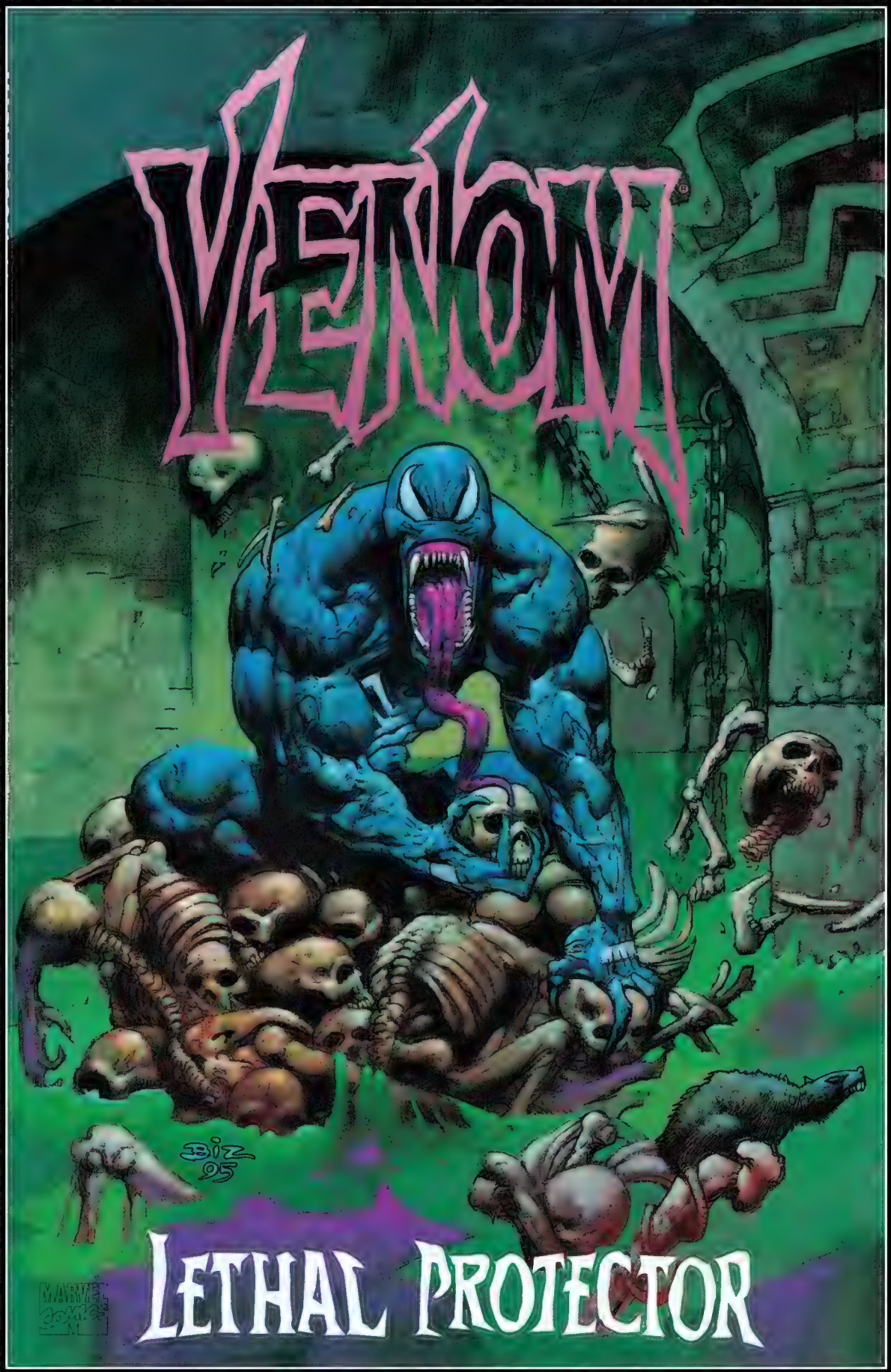
This character instability is what Danny finds most appealing. "Venom is the king of rationalization," he explained. "If Venom needs money, I am sure he would not hesitate to rob a bank or break open an armored truck.

"Assuming that the series is popular," Danny said tongue-in-cheekedly, "There is a strong possibility of future limited series or even giving Venom his very own regular monthly book. I would love to see a future Venom storyline series featuring The Punisher," he continued. "In many ways the two characters are similar and in many ways they are different. They both fancy themselves as heroes who have the right to kill whomever they believe is bad. Yet there are essential differences. It would be interesting exploring those. A lot of writers and artists have expressed incredible interest in working with Venom, handing me story ideas. Right now, though, only this limited series is set."

"The VENOM limited series premiere issue will probably have a prismatic foil-enhanced cover," Danny revealed. "The plan now is to tie in VENOM #1, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #375, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #100 and SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #200 with special cover enhancements that will be related. Then, in the spring, we have a big crossover featuring Venom and Carnage, starting in the first issue of the SPIDER-MAN unlimited and continuing through three months of all the Spider-books and concluding in the second issue of the quarterly.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to be doing a series starring Spidey's deadliest villain," Danny concluded, "but I think the readers will be even more enthusiastic. This series solidifies Venom in the Marvel Universe, supplying the character with a supporting cast, a base of operations, and a new direction that will allow the fans to enjoy his involvement more and more in the future."

- Steve Vrattos

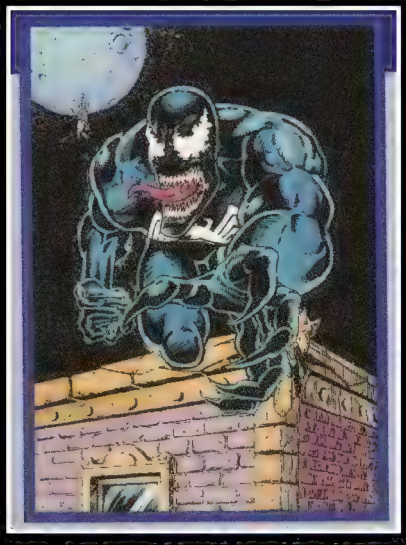


VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR TPB (1995 1ST EDITION) COVER BY SIMON BISLEY

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #361-362 SILVER 2ND-PRINTING VARIANTS

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR #1 GOLD FOIL VARIANT

MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES 1-3 (1990-1992) TRADING CARDS BY
MARK BAGLEY, LEE WEEKS, JOE SINNOTT, ERIK LARSEN & RON LIM



ORIGINAL ART FOR *THE MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES 3*
HOLOGRAM CARD BY RON LIM

UK-EXCLUSIVE TRADING CARD (1992)
FROM *EXPLOITS OF SPIDER-MAN #2*

MARVEL MASTERPIECES SERIES 1 (1992) TRADING CARDS BY JOE JUSKO

UNUSED CARD SKETCH BY JOE JUSKO, FROM *MARVEL AGE #117*

MARVEL MASTERPIECES SERIES 2 (1993) TRADING CARD BY DAVE DORMAN

MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES 4 (1993) TRADING CARDS BY RON LIM, TERRY AUSTIN, ALEX SAVIUK, KIRK JARVINEN, BRAD VANCATA, PAUL MOUNTS & CO.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #373, PAGE 17 ART BY TOD SMITH

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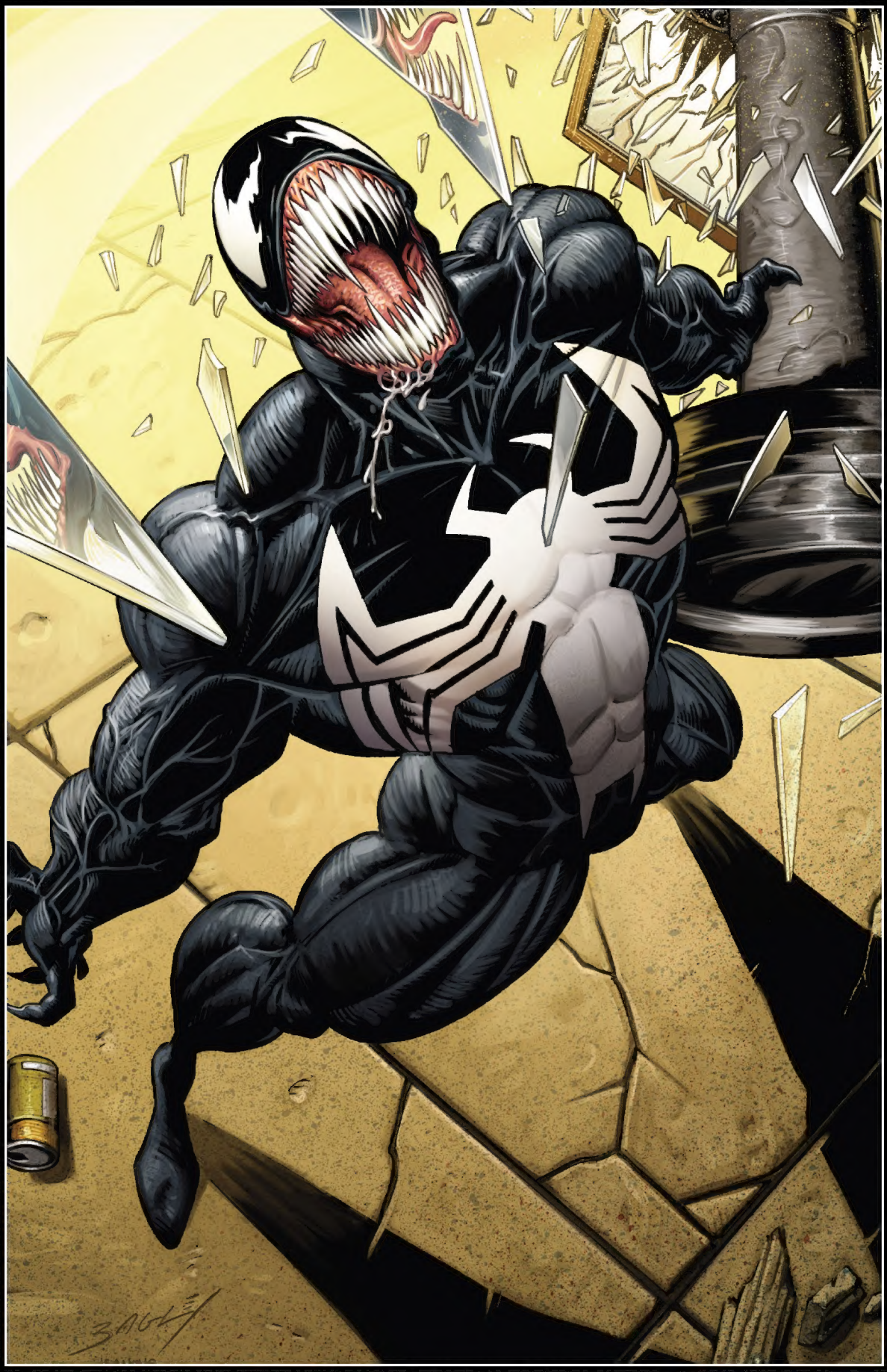
SPIDER-MAN: THE VENGEANCE OF VENOM TPB BACK COVER BY MARK BAGLEY, RANDY EMBERLIN & TOM SMITH

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR TPB (2011 2ND EDITION) BACK COVER BY MARK BAGLEY, SAM DE LA ROSA & TOM SMITH

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR TPB (2011 2ND EDITION) COVER BY MARK BAGLEY, SAM DE LA ROSA & THOMAS MASON

VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR TPB (2018 3RD EDITION) COVER BY MARK BAGLEY, SAM DE LA ROSA & VERONICA GANDINI



VENOM (2016) #150 REMASTERED VARIANT BY MARK BAGLEY, RANDY EMBERLIN & RICHARD ISANOVE

VENOM (2018) #25 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY MARK BAGLEY, RANDY EMBERLIN & EDGAR DELGADO

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